EUROPEAN CUP UPDATE FIRST LEG SCORES AND SCORERS

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WORLD SOCCER

HE'S BACK !

New storm over **MARADONA**

CLUB FOCUS:

GRAMPUS 8

FERENCVAROS

SPOTLIGHT:

WINTER
BARROS
WEBB

EXCLUSIVE:
Argentina manager

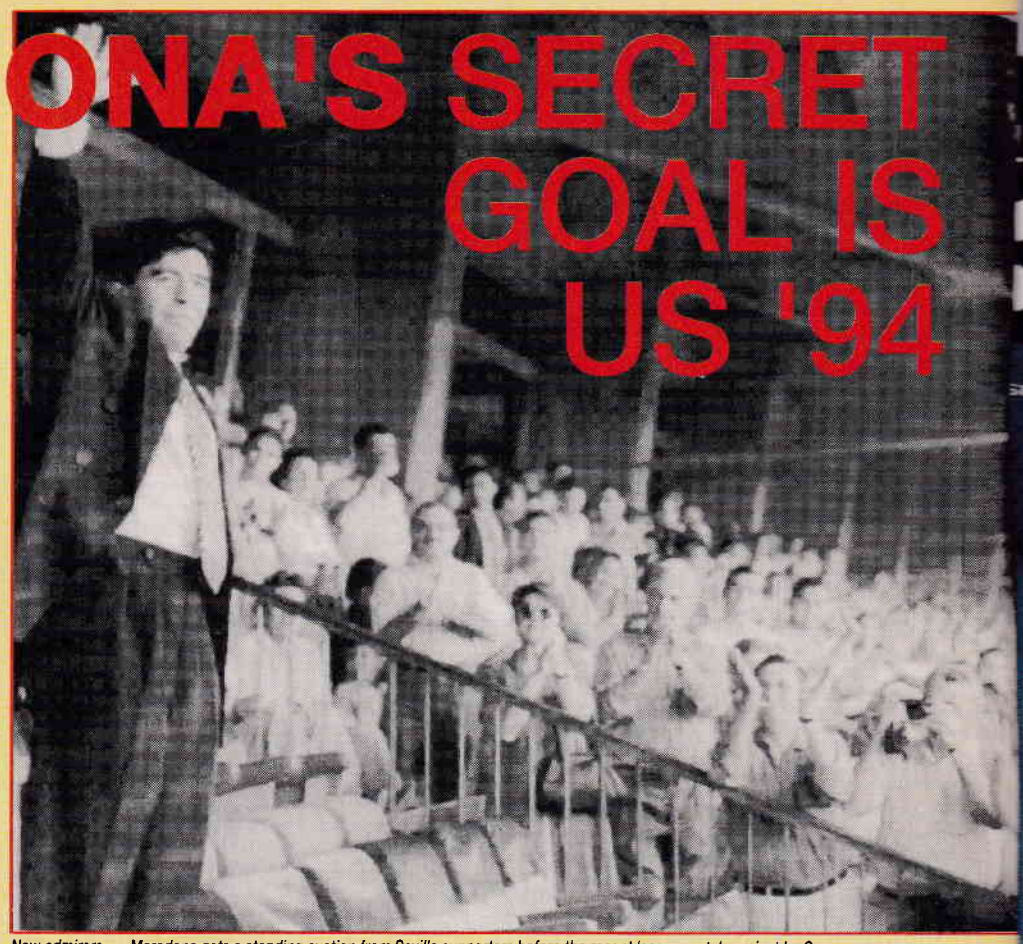
Alfio BASILE

WorldCup
USA94 COUNTDOWN

ENGLAND v NORWAY

MARADONA'S SECRET GOAL IS US '94

EXCLUSIVE BY **KEIR RADNEDGE**



New admirers . . . Maradona gets a standing ovation from Sevilla supporters before the recent league match against La Coruna.

Disgraced superstar plans comeback with Sevilla

DIEGO MARADONA'S attempt at a controversial comeback with Spain's Sevilla is the first step on the path to his ultimate goal: leading Argentina in to the finals of the 1994 World Cup.

I understand that the disgraced superstar has taken on board the advice from an even greater player, Pele, Brazil's World Cup inspiration from 1958 and 1970, who told me:

"The last time I met Maradona I said to him 'You can still play in the World Cup. You have the talent. The physical preparation is down to you, but if you want it enough you can do it'."

By the time of the 1994 World Cup finals Maradona will be 33. Argentine manager Alfio Basile would be delighted to build a team around him, and Sevilla coach Carlos Bilardo — who managed Argentina's 1986 World Cup winners — is just the man to bring Maradona back to international match fitness.

Maradona has immense pride. He is not insensitive to the fact that the last image the world game maintains of him was stalking, in tears of rage, from the pitch in Rome before the trophy presentation after the 1990 World Cup Final defeat by West Germany.

Compensate

His career went into rapid decline. All the money in Naples could not compensate Maradona for the way his love affair with the Italian football public turned to hate. He began looking for a way out.

Soft drugs provided provided one route, given that Napoli ignored all the provocation that would have earned any other player the sack.

In February, 1991, the public prosecutor issued a telephone surveillance report which appeared to link Maradona with a drugs and prostitution ring. Worse was to follow.

In March the Italian Federation told Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino that Maradona had tested positively for drugs after a 1-0 home win over Bari.

Speculation, based on the public prosecutor's evidence, that the drug was not a "sports stimulant" but cocaine, was duly confirmed. Maradona was banned from football for 15 months by the Federation, and the suspension was subsequently ratified worldwide by FIFA.

Maradona flew home to Argentina with wife Claudia and their two daughters, vowing never to return to Italy.

And still worse was to come.

On April 26 last year Maradona and two friends were arrested in Argentina after being caught in possession of cocaine in a Buenos Aires apartment. Maradona was held in custody for 30 hours. Nobody was allowed to see him. Claudia was turned away. So was lawyer Marcos Franchi.

Ultimately Maradona appeared in court in handcuffs and was released on £10,000 bail.

He has spent the past year undergoing anti-drug therapy. He is on probation and has been given his passport back on condition that he reports to "his" judge every three months.

His intention of a playing comeback was never in doubt, for all Maradona's contradictory statements. Football is, after all, all he knows.

Maradona had always intended to wind down his career with Boca Juniors. But they could not come up with the necessary funds to buy out his Napoli contract and offer Maradona the sort of deal he expected.

Contracted

The Parmalat food group, who sponsor not only Parma in Italy but Palmeiras in Brazil, approached Napoli president Ferlaino. Real Madrid made noises. So did Marseille. So did Sevilla, shamelessly using the Bilardo-Maradona on the old boy network.

But there was one hitch. Napoli refused to sell. Ferlaino pointed out that Maradona was properly contracted to his club until June 1993. He refused to budge even under pressure from FIFA and mediation attempts from the Italian Federation supremo, Antonio Matarrese.

Maradona refused to return to Napoli, to the delight of Sevilla president Luis Cuervas, who persuaded lawyer Franchi to take Maradona to Spain instead.

His arrival provoked a near riot of delight, but that is nothing compared with the way Argentina will react next summer if Maradona books his — and their — place in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Old friends . . . Maradona and Carlos Bilardo, pictured here in 1988, could soon be working together again.

EUROPEAN MINNOWS FACE WORLD CUP RELEGATION

EUROPE'S minnows are playing for their World Cup and European Championship futures.

By the time of the next major competition, they could be relegated from the international mainstream into preliminary qualifying rounds. Only the winners would be exposed to the likes of Germany, Italy, Spain, Holland and England.

Nations in question include San Marino, the Faroe Islands, perhaps the states newly-created from Soviet and Yugoslav political collapse, Cyprus, Malta and Iceland.

San Marino's ten-goal thrashing by Norway in last month's World Cup qualifier in Oslo and the six-goal demolition of the Faroes by Wales set in train proposals for change.

Senior officials in FIFA and UEFA are increasingly concerned that qualifying groups are being decided not among "real" contestants but by who scores most goals against the minnows.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said: "We now have a lot of smaller nations in Europe and including them in the World Cup was an experiment to see how they could cope. But Ice Hockey scores are not representative of football and not good for the game's image."

UEFA's rapid expansion is causing logistical concern. Tognoni said: "It is evident that we cannot allow qualifying groups with seven or eight teams.

"We want the smaller nations to have competitive contact with the bigger nations and earn money so they can exist and develop their football.

"We will review the situation at the end of the current World Cup qualifying competition."

VOTE NOW

World Footballer of the Year
World Manager of the Year
World Team of the Year

NOW is the time to cast your votes for the three annual *WORLD SOCCER* awards.

As usual the results will be announced in the December issue. As usual we look forward to the massive response from our readership that the poll has drawn in the past.

If you need help sorting out the candidates, you need look only as far as the major competitions during the past year.

Brian Laudrup and *Peter Schmeichel* were decisive in *Denmark's* shock European Championship triumph.

Holland's *Dennis Bergkamp* was an exciting international newcomer and helped *Ajax* to win the UEFA Cup.

Hristo Stoichkov and *Ronald Koeman* were driving forces in taking *Barcelona* to the pinnacles of European and domestic club competition.

Palinha was top scorer in *Sao Paulo's* victory in the South American Club Cup.

On the managerial front, *Johan Cruyff* dominated in Spain and Europe, much as he used to when a player, Denmark's *Richard Moller Nielsen* had to postpone redecorating his kitchen and lead Denmark to undreamed-of success, and *Tele Santana's* fa ith in Brazil's "beautiful game" was rewarded with Sao Paulo's Libertadores crown.

All these — and, no doubt, many more — will be considered as you make your choice for each category.

***WORLD SOCCER* AWARDS, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.**

WHAT'S ON

New tournament for champions

CHAMPIONS of three continents are brought together this month in Saudi Arabia for a new event which is expected to become part of the international calendar.

The champions of Africa (Ivory Coast), South America (Argentina), and North and Central America (United States) meet in Riyadh, with hosts Saudi Arabia — representing Asia — for the Intercontinental Champions Cup.

European champions Denmark were not invited because the overcrowded autumn fixture schedule precluded their involvement.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 2: San Marino v Norway. **Group 5:** Iceland v Greece. **Group 6:** Sweden v Bulgaria.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
World Cup qualifier, Oceania Group 1: Tahiti v Solomon Islands.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Italy v Switzerland, Scotland v Portugal. **Group 2:** England v Norway, Holland v Poland. **Group 3:** Denmark v Rep. of Ireland, Northern Ireland v Spain. **Group 4:** Belgium v Romania, Cyprus v Wales. **Group 5:** Russia v Iceland. **Group 6:** France v Austria.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
Intercontinental Champions Cup, 1st semi-final: Argentina v Ivory Coast.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
Intercontinental Champions Cup, 2nd semi-final: Saudi Arabia v United States.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
Intercontinental Champions Cup, 3rd place play-off.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
Intercontinental Champions Cup, final.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
Champions' Cup, Cup-winners' Cup, UEFA Cup, 2nd round, 1st leg.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 1: Malta v Estonia.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 2: Turkey v San Marino. **Group 3:** Lithuania v Latvia. **Group 5:** Russia v Luxembourg. **Group 6:** Austria v Israel.

Prodigal son . . . Diego Maradona.

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Spotlight on FABIO **CAPELLO**

Signor Superb

The winner . . . Capello's most memorable goal for Italy came at Wembley against England in November 1973.

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Many people felt that Capello had an impossible task: his managerial experience in Serie A was limited to the last five weeks of the 1986-87 season, yet here he was taking over again, with Milan now the most powerful club in Italy, maybe the most powerful in the world.

Multi-millionaire Silvio Berlusconi had appointed Capello to succeed Arrigo Sacchi, now Italian team manager. And Berlusconi, so often derided, was proved right.

Milan stormed to the championship, and Berlusconi was able to appear beside Capello and say: "Here stands the novice who supposedly would have to wait five or six years before gaining success."

Now Capello has the job of building on that success, and that too is thought to be impossible. Even though he spent enormous sums on new players during the close season, what can be better than going through a season unbeaten?

Capello knows the answer: to win the Champions' Cup, wiping out the memory of defeat by Marseille two seasons ago.

Such was the anticipation awaiting Milan's campaign that the players asked for the services of the club physio one week before their pre-season gathering.

Still, Berlusconi's yearning to command a squad filled with internationals, including six foreigners, has met opposition, not least from ex-golden boy Gianni Rivera. The main problem for Capello concerns his ability to keep a group of over 20 players of proven quality harmonious and intact.

The regulation permitting the use of only the three overseas players in any given league match heightens the concern — three world-class internationals must sit in the stands each time.

"We wanted 22 players of the highest order," says Capello. "This will enable us to be competitive on all fronts by maintaining our high standards. I realise I may have problems handling so many champions, but we need to be kept busy in all competitions."

Prominent

Fabio Capello was born on June 18, 1946 in Pieris, in the north-east of Italy. His late father played a prominent part in the boys development and when Fabio was only 12 the pair set off for Ferrara and a trial with Spal. On arrival, they were welcomed by the man in charge, Paolo Mazza, who eventually guided Italy to the 1962 World Cup Finals. Mazza was impressed and assured Capello a future place.

He progressed further with semi-pro outfit Valdagno, and Spal obtained the option to sign him in spite of offers from Milan and Juventus.

He made his debut for Spal two months short of his 17th birthday in 1963 — just before Milan beat Benfica 2-1 at Wembley to win the Champions' Cup for the first time.

After four seasons with Spal, Capello joined a Roma team coached by the master of catenaccio, Helenio Herrera, and his first honour arrived in 1969 — the Italian Cup.

The following year was a turning point, when Capello was transferred to Juventus. He earned the first of three league titles in Turin, and in May 1972 entered the international scene in a 2-1 defeat in Belgium. He went on to represent the Azzurri 32 times, scoring eight goals.

Capello was a classic playmaker, with a keen eye for goal and the capacity to find his colleagues with precision passing.

In 1976 Capello moved to Milan in exchange for the uncompromising Romeo Benetti, his midfield partner of 24 internationals. Capello secured his fourth title in Milan, and a second Italian Cup medal, before retiring at 34, to join the coaching staff.

He began with the club's juniors and passed through the ranks to become the assistant to the maestro of the zonal system, Swedish coach Nils Liedholm. With five matches left in 86-87, and qualification for the UEFA Cup in jeopardy, Berlusconi decided to relieve Liedholm of his duties. Capello was given a chance and he steered Milan to a place in Europe.

At this juncture, the president gambled on the introduction of Arrigo Sacchi, and Capello drifted into the background. He took an executive post within Berlusconi's company, Fininvest, while Sacchi's marvels grew to vanquish the rest of Europe. Then his return culminated in a flawless 34-match programme to lift the club's 12th title.

"I brought in my experience as an ex-footballer," he says. "My spell as a company executive also taught me how to best manage a group of employees. My team is different to Sacchi's. We play a traditional 4-4-2 without a forward playing from deep and rely less on offside tactics. .

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"I recognise that I have to win something, that I'm not just employed in any profession . . . I am the coach of Milan!"

The season that ended so well began with unconvincing 1-0 victories over Ascoli and Cagliari, products of an own goal and a penalty respectively. Then Milan met Juventus in a contest which set the pattern for the better part of the season. With seconds to spare from a 1-0 defeat, a centre was unwittingly deflected into his own net by Massimo Carrera, earning Milan a hard-fought draw.

The worker . . . Capello conducts a training session with his players.

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"Against Juventus I learned that my team was solid and proud, that the players could react positively to the critics," says Capello.

Capello cites the visit to Atalanta as one of psychological significance. The 2-0 win was followed by a 4-1 demolition of Roma, preceding a splendid 2-0 victory away to the champions, Sampdoria.

By the turn of the year, Milan's advantage over Juventus was a slight two points and the duel promised a thrilling climax. The visit of third-placed Napoli, a breathtaking 5-1 slaughter, confirmed Milan's superiority.

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The incidents that followed left the Foggia players utterly shell-shocked. From a 2-1 deficit, Milan netted seven times in 40 inspired minutes to win 8-2!

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Arrigo Sacchi sat in the stands at Foggia's Zaccheria Stadium and left after the sixth goal with two words that said it all: "Mamma mia!"

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RAY **DELLA PIETRA**

The big name in the Hungarian game

FERENCVAROS

BY BRIAN **O'SULLIVAN**

FERENCVAROS, who hold four major Hungarian records, have delighted their supporters by returning to European Champions' Cup action after an 11-year break.

Few of their rivals this season can match "Fradi" for past domestic achievements.

Ferencvarosi Torna Club — Torna means gymnastics — have won more championships (24) and cups (15) than any other Hungarian club.

They are the only one to win a European trophy (the Fairs Cup in 1965, beating Juventus), and the only one never to be relegated.

Now they are in Europe's premier club competition again, after ending last season unbeaten in their last 17 League games, beaten only twice in 30.

Their success reflects well on Tibor Nyilasi, their manager and former player, in only his second season in the post.

"Last year I thought we had the same chance to win the championship but there were a couple of mishaps," Nyilasi said. "This same team, with a couple more players, played very well; every player has improved.

"Players must have certain incentives to succeed. They must have motivation, do a lot of work, and have confidence. They must feel trusted by the manager. We are a family team."

Since the move to democracy and market economy all Hungarian clubs have pressing financial worries.

So Fradi saw the Champions' Cup as a belated chance to turn around a debt of about £164,000, restore their name internationally, find a lucrative multinational sponsor and set in motion plans for the centenary in 1999, although they will be hard pressed to retrieve a three-goal deficit from the first leg against Slovan Bratislava.

"If we could reach the last eight, that would solve all the financial problems for years," says Mihaly Havasi, the technical director.

He had been keen to see the club become a limited liability company — which might have happened had Jean-Claude Bras, the French entrepreneur, not ended his link — rather than remain one of the old, loyal, friends not contributing financially.

Havasi says: "We have reduced our debt from £428,000 by more than half, and paid off the £12,000 we owed to UEFA for fines imposed after trouble caused by some of our supporters.

"We rely on sponsors and advertising for 85 per cent of our income and the game reflects the position of the country. We always want good results without much investment. But good results come only from a very good working base.

"So we've got to invest a lot of money, particularly into the youths, who come here without much sports culture. We run 21 junior teams, aged eight to 18.

"I proposed to the board to make an agreement with the Belgian (Louis de Vries, who, with former Ferencvaros star Laszlo Balint, has since obtained a 51 per cent controlling share of the limited company set up within Kispest-Honved), but the board did not want him to have 51 per cent control. Something should be done to change football, with one or more main sponsors. At the moment, we need a foreign one — Hungarians don't have enough money."

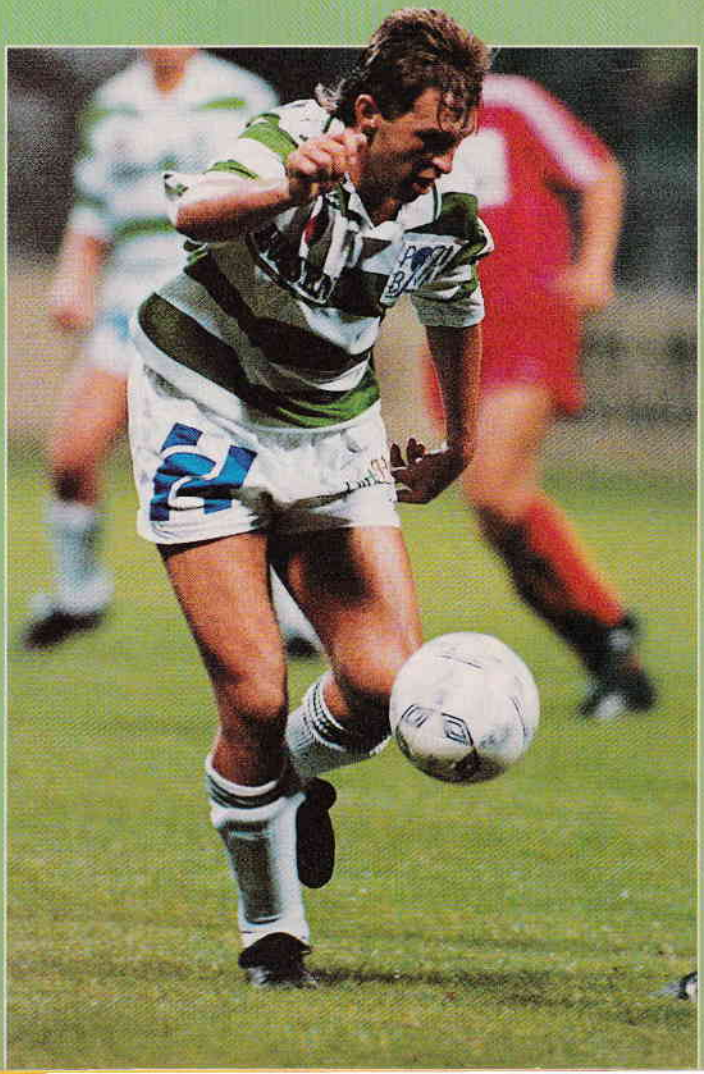
Ferencvarosi Torna Club — FTC, Ferencvaros, or simply Fradi — were founded on May 3, 1899, and succeeded Hungary's oldest club, BTC, in the ninth district of Budapest, called Ferencvaros.

The founders chose two colours of the Hungarian tricolour but the white and red already belonged to BTC, so they settled for green and white. The club's shield contains nine stripes, five green and four white, and the motto of three Es: Erkolc, Ero, Egyetertes (Morals, Strength, Harmony).

The first president, Dr Ferenc Springer, is so esteemed that a statue of him stands in front of the club's headquarters and behind one of the goals in the Ulloi ut. stadium.

Fradi's first match was on March 25, 1900, at nearby Soroksar Street, which runs parallel with the Danube, and ended in defeat, 1-0 to Budai Torna Egylet.

Matches were played at this ground, the capacity being only 1,500, until 1911, when the club moved to Ulloi ut. and a stadium which, after being reconstructed into a rectangular shape in 1974 for the 75th anniverary, held 30,000, but this has now been



Home from home . . . 19-year-old international Jozsef Gregor (right) is one of the young Fradi stars who play their home games at the Ulloi ut stadium (below).

Young libero . . . 21-year-old international Andras Telek joined Ferencvaros as long ago as 1981.

reduced, because of safety reasons, to 20,000.

Soon after the 75th anniversary, an underground station was completed near the end of the stadium where the offices, museum, public restaurant and bar are situated. Two other grass pitches, as well as an all-weather pitch, and other sporting areas in nearby Nepliget, the name of the metro station, cater for 13 sports.

Fradi's story is one of loyal players, despite the team's great successes — out of the first three in the championship only 19 times in 90 years — being mixed with periods of decline and even loss of name.

This loyalty, and the character as much as playing ability, has induced amazing support on the terraces and beyond; the club have played more than 100 matches outside Europe, in North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Florian Albert, European Footballer of the Year in 1967 during a controversial career, is vice-chairman of the football section. His son, also Florian, is now a player with the club.

"We try to have a manager who used to be a player in our team," said Albert. "In this way, we maintain continuity. Winning this 24th championship has been due to teamwork. Tibor Nyilasi prepared the players well and the management ensured that all the circumstances in the club were such that the team could operate without problems."

Between 1901, when the first Hungarian championship was played, and 1913, Fradi were champions eight times out of ten, Imre Schlosser (58 internationals and 59 goals!) was leading League scorer for five successive seasons, when he transferred to great rivals MTK. They ruled until the mid-1920s, being champions ten times in succession.

Then Ferencvaros and Ujpest took over the running and among the club's best players was the versatile, popular, Dr Gyorgy Sarosi (61 caps, 42 goals). In the 1931-32 season Fradi won all 22 championship matches (a feat still to be emulated), after a tour of South America where Uruguay, the then Olympic champions, were beaten 3-2.

The 1930s was the era of Gyula Lazar (49 internationals), Geza Toldi (46) and Sarosi. Toldi, a player of great heart, personified the club and is part of their folklore: Bela ("Kronikas") Nagy, who has written 62 books on the club, says that his favourite is the one solely on Toldi, called Symbol of the Fradi Heart.

After World War Two Ferencvaros won the championship in the 1948-49 season, with Ferenc Deak (20 caps, 29 goals) scoring 49 times.

Budapest Honved (now Kispest-Honved), the army club formed after the takeover of Kispest in the same year, then raided Ulloi ut, and grabbed Laszlo Budai, Sandor Kocsis and Zoltan Czibor (all of whom were to play in Hungary's "Golden" team).

Ferencvaros represented a right-wing faction of the population and had suffered during the war. They lost players, their identity and name, fusing with EDOSZ, the Food Industrial Workers' Trade Union, before being renamed again, this time Kinizsi, after a former Hungarian hero. In 1956 they reverted to Ferencvaros.

Four championships were won in seven seasons during the 1960s, and the Fairs Cup success came in 1965. Play-offs were needed, all at home — no shoot-outs then — to conquer Weiner SK, Athletic Bilbao (quarter-final) and Manchester United (semi-final) before beating Juventus in their own Turin home, Mate Fenyvesi scoring the only goal.

Some brilliant football was played by teams containing Albert (75 caps, 31 goals), Gyula Rakosi (41, 4), Dezso Novak, Fenyvesi (76, 6), Sandor Matrai (80), Lajos Szucs (37) and Dr Miklos Pancsics (37).

Three years later, Fradi qualified for another Fairs Cup Final but lost to Leeds on away goals.

Albert, Novak and Szucs were in the World XI who played Brazil in Rio after the 1968 Olympics, which Hungary won, but all this success brought its problems, too, as player-power took hold not only in Fenercvaros but also in the national team.

The late 1960s were dominated by Ujpest, though Ferencvaros finished runners-up four times in five seasons. Then some new talents gelled and the championship was won in 1975-76, just after the new stadium was completed.

Players included Nyilasi (70 caps, 34 goals), Balint (76, 4), Dr Istvan Geczi, a giant in goal and a survivor from the late 1960s, Jozsef Mucha (now one of Nyilasi's assistant coaches) and the late Laszlo Pusztai (25, 5). This team eliminated Liverpool on the way to the European Cup-winners' Cup Final, only to collapse 3-0 to a powerhouse display by Kiev Dynamo in Basle.

The next championship team, of 1980-81, had Nyilasi as the star, scoring 30 goals out of 75.

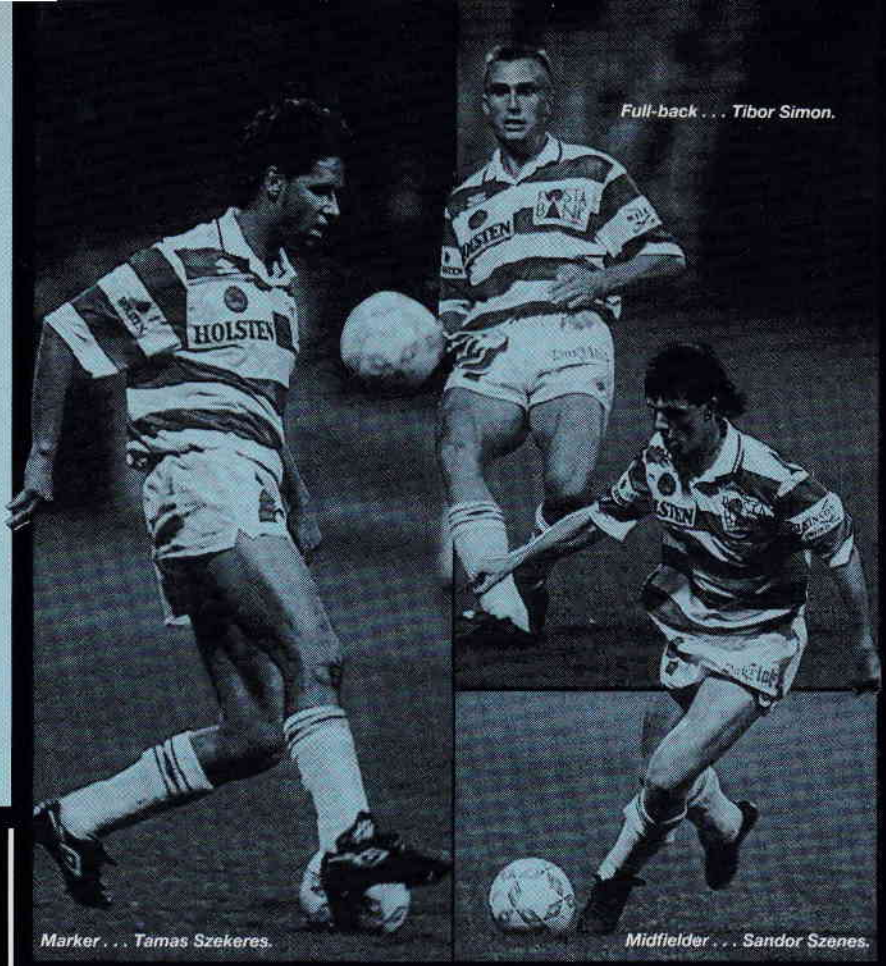
Nyilasi had his first match as manager on August 10, 1990, a pre-season tournament fixture against Cercle Bruges, and who can say that a new era did not begin on that afternoon?

After the club had gone a decade without a trophy, a man who found the game so easy to play has brought them two trophies in two seasons.

Like father like son . . . the great Florian Albert and (inset below) Florian junior.

FRADI
FACT BOX

FERENCVAROSI TORNA CLUB
Founded: May 3, 1899.
Colours: Green and white.
Stadium and headquarters: Ulloi ut, 129, Budapest IX, H-1090 (capacity 20,000).
President: Dr Lazjos Harza.
Chairman: Dr Istvan Zivos.
Vice-chairman: Florian Albert.
Manager: Tibor Nyilasi.
Honours
Hungarian Champions ***(24 times, record):*** 1903, 1905, 1906-07, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1931-32, 1933-34, 1937-38, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1948-49, 1962-63, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1975-76, 1980-81, 1991-92.
Hungarian Cup ***(15 times, record):*** 1913, 1922, 1927, 1928, 1933, 1935, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1958, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1991.
European Fairs Cup: 1965.
Mitropa Cup ***(Central European Cup):*** 1928, 1937.



Full-back . . . Tibor Simon.
Marker . . . Tamas Szekeres.
Midfielder . . . Sandor Szenes.

THE MANAGER

Tibor NYILASI.
Aged 47 (born 18th January 1955).
The country's best and most typically Hungarian footballer of his generation; rose to the top as a forward, made better use of his height, elegance and skill as a goal-maker, and ended his playing career with Austria Vienna in the mid-1980s, Ferencvaros having been his only Hungarian club. Scored 32 goals in 70 internationals, missing half as many as he played in though injuries, a six-month suspension after being sent off in the 1978 World Cup finals against Argentina, and self-imposed, though temporary, retirement. Injury also kept him out of the 1986 World Cup finals. Undertook a three-year course in sports training before being appointed manager. Early doubts about his ability to handle the pressures of management have subsided; has improved the playing standard of players who swear by his approach to them and his understanding of tactics. Married with two children.

In charge . . . Tibor Nyilasi.

THE PLAYERS

Tamas BALOGH.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 30 (born 6th September 1967).
One cap (v Ukraine as substitute, April 1992). Joined club in 1979, debut in February 1991. Well-positioned for shots but punches when he might catch.

Dezso HORVATH.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 21 (born 22nd December 1970).
Played for Baja from 1988 to 1990.

Jozsef SZEILER.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 27 (born 3rd November 1965).
Only two appearances since debut in November 1990. Reserve when Under-18 team won European Youth title in 1984. Club youth product who had a broken hand in 1984 and broken hand and leg in 1985.

Andras TELEK.
Libero.
Aged 21 (born 10th December 1970).
Five caps, all last season, debut v Austria in March 1992. Learnt his football in the small square, so common in suburban Pest. Joined Ferencvaros 1981, debut 1990. Unflustered by attacks, seeks positive pass when coming out of defence.

Tibor SIMON.
Right-back.
Aged 27 (born 1st September 1965).
11 caps, debut v Spain, November 1989. Gets interceptions in well and has pace to recover.

Szergei KUZNYECOV.
Libero.
Aged 29 (born 1st January 1963).
Played for Metallist Karkhov from 1981 to 1988, had two years with Chernomorets Odessa, joined Ferencvaros in 1990. Quick to see chance to advance with excellent tactical understanding and good timing in combination play.

Tamas SZEKERES.
Man-marker.
Aged 20 (born 12th September 1972).
League debut in May, 1991, after playing in Norway. Member of youth team who won national championship.

Jozsef KELLER.
Left-back or midfield.
Aged 26 (born 25th September 1965).
23 caps, debut September 1986 v Norway. Played for home-town team from 1976 to 1984, when transferred to Ferencvaros. Debut in same year, now played nearly 200 games. Deeply influenced by watching matches during his childhood.

Imre FODOR.
Midfield.
Aged 29 (born 16th February 1963).
Four caps, debut 1988. Added new dimension to team after mid-season transfer from Siofok. Made league debut for MTK Budapest in 1979, left there in 1986 for Budapest Honved until 1991. Not the easiest of players to manage but tight, well-balanced, little bundle with all the qualities of an attacking midfielder. More than 250 appearances.

Peter LIPCSEI.
Midfield.
Aged 20 (born 28th March 1972).
Ten caps, all last season. Debut v Republic of Ireland in September, and missed only the 2-1 defeat v Iceland. Joined Ferencvaros in 1990, find of the autumn season, and scored fine goals in the Cup-winners' Cup. Seemingly casual style, tends to hold the ball a bit, but sharp in touch play. Subject of speculation about a move to Spain.

Florian ALBERT.
Midfield.
Aged 25 (born 12th December 1967).
Second child of celebrated father, 75-times capped forward of same name. Joined Ferencvaros in 1974. Thankful for the coaching of Istvan Perlaki, for his physical strength, and Nyilasi ("he enjoyed playing, he could play well easily"). First-team debut in September 1988. Tall, lean, moves freely, without strain, like his father!

Sandor SZENES.
Midfielder.
Aged 24 (born 11th November 1967).
Debut in 1987 after playing for FC Bihor, Inter Sibiu and Steaua Bucharest.

Gyula VAZSIL.
Midfielder.
Aged 28 (born 31st May 1964).
Debut for Videoton in 1982, moved to Ferencvaros 1986. Best coach: Ferenc Kovacs ("he knew the skills"). Main interest outside football: always having enough money for good living.

Laszlo RACZ.
Midfielder.
Aged 22 (born 25th March 1961).
48 caps (4 goals) for Soviet Union, debut in 1986 v Romania. Played for Kiev Dynamo from 1981 to 1990, winning the European Cup-winners' Cup with them and runners-up place in the European Championship in 1988. In the Soviet Union he played 190 League matches, scoring 25 goals. Injuries and illness have restricted his appearances at FTC but still has that renowned long-range shooting ability. Regards honesty as being more important than anything else for a footballer.

Zsolt PALING.
Midfielder.
Aged 23 (born 16th February 1969).
Joined Ferencvaros in 1988 and has played 57 games, scoring seven goals. Prefers passes to run on to so he can exploit his speed and dribbling.

Gabor BALOGH.
Forward.
Aged 27 (born 26th October 1964).
At MTK-VM from 1982 to 1991, debut in 1981, 60 goals in 135 matches, being in a championship-winning team with that club. Tall, long-striding marksman who shields the ball well. May move to a Spanish club.

Peter DESZATNIK.
Left-wing.
Aged 26 (born 21st July 1966).
At Kazincbarcika from 1977 to 1991, debut for FTC in August 1991, 20 matches and four goals. Feels a debt to Nyilasi ("because he has stayed with me, supported me, in all ways").

Zsolt NAGY.
Right-back, flank player.
Aged 24 (born 4th June 1968).
Played for Sarisap from 1979 to 1983, debut in 1987, now 70 matches and seven goals. Played in the National Youth Championship final.

Laszlo WUKOVICS.
Forward.
Aged 22 (born 22nd January 1970).
One-club player, debut in May 1988, now played 53 league matches and scored 20 goals, including two in the final match which clinched the championship. Has recovered well from Achilles operation in August last year.

Zsolt FONNYADT.
Forward.
Aged 24 (born 7th February 1968).
Played for Keszthely Haladas from 1986 to 1988. League debut March 1988, eight goals in 48 matches. Big influence: seeing FTC beat Ujpest 7-1, Nepstadion, September 1979 (Nyilasi scored!). Studying languages and catering.

Jozsef GREGOR.
Forward.
Aged 19 (born 20th November 1973).
Signed from Siofok in close season on two-year contract. Leading League scorer in 1990-91 when he helped the then Budapest-Honved to be champions. Six caps.

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

BY RINO **LANDA**

Viking give Cruyff cause for concern

EUROPEAN champions Barcelona went within four minutes of humiliation as they opened their defence of the crown won so gloriously at Wembley last May.

Coach Johan Cruyff was so confident of strolling to victory against the part-time Norwegians from Viking Stavanger that he rested both Dutchman Ronald Koeman — Barsa's Wembley hero — and Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Cruyff wanted his men to turn on an exhibition performance. Instead the passes missed their targets and it was not until the 86th minute Guillermo Amor — who has missed both Barcelona's last two European finals because of suspension — grabbed the winner. Viking have struggled in Norway this year but may yet dream of the sort of giant-killing which is becoming ever more of a rarity in European competition.

Elsewhere there was a pointed reminder for Barcelona that their grip on the Champions' Cup faces its most serious threat not so much from Scandinavia but from Italy.

Only three days after Marco Van Basten hit a remarkable hat-trick to save Milan, spectacularly, from Italian league defeat at Pescara, he was celebrating two more in a comfortable 4-0 demolition of Slovenia's Olimpija Ljubljana.

But even Van Basten was outscored by Napoli's Uruguayan striker, Daniel Fonseca, who scored all five of his team's goals in a 5-1 romp at Valencia in the UEFA Cup.

Van Basten scored his opener after only five minutes and added Milan's third four minutes after the break. Dutch colleague Ruud Gullit, recalled from the stands, set up the fourth for Milan's French import, Jean-Pierre Papin.

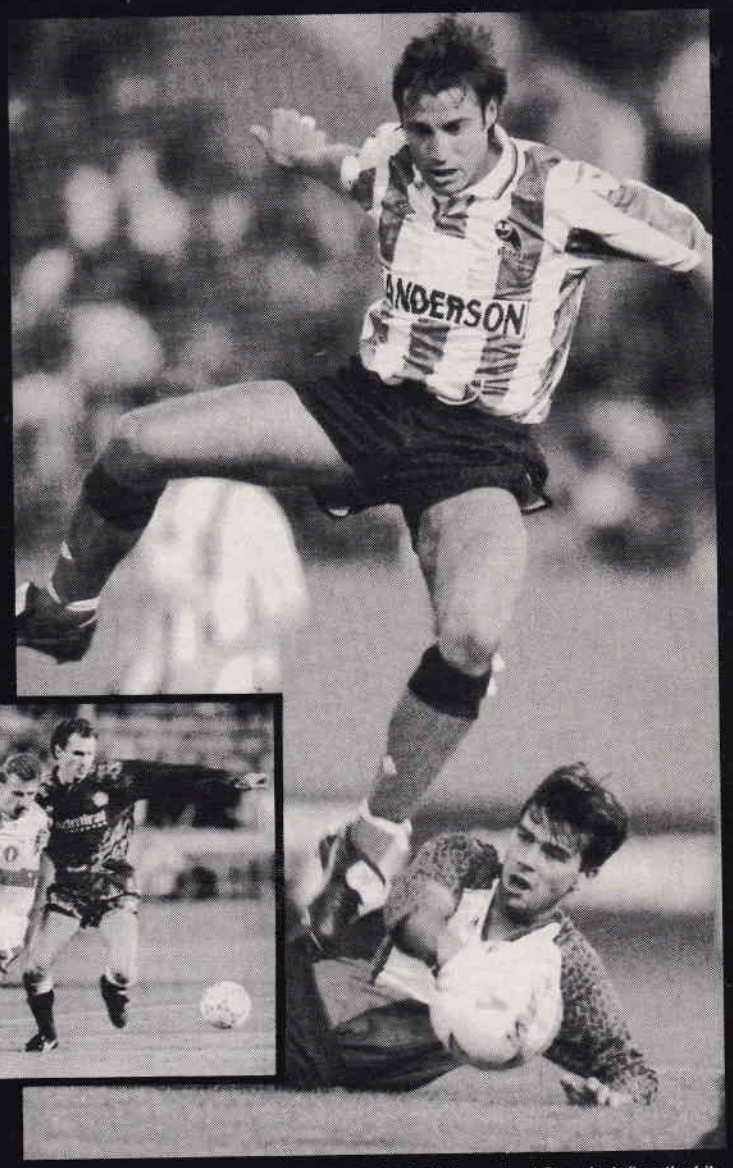
JPP's goal was his first for Milan since his summer transfer from Marseille. Milan of course, were banned from Europe last season after their players walked off the field during a Champions' Cup defeat, by Marseille in the spring of last year.

Other former European champions safely on course after the opening salvoes are Holland's PSV Eindhoven, who demolished Lithuanian club Zhalgiris Vilnius 6-0. Juul Ellerman netted three of Eindhoven's goals.

Marseille, beaten finalists two seasons ago, stormed to a 5-0 triumph over Norther Ireland's Glentoran in Belfast. Spanish midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez scored twice and German striker Rudi Voeller once.

Leeds, returning to European soccer after an absence of 17 years, will struggle to reach even the second round after losing 3-0 to German champions Stuttgart. Fritz Walter scored two of Stuttgart's goals after their technical superiority paid off in the second half in the Neckar stadium.

Macabi Tel Aviv's prospects in their debut season in European soccer ended with a 1-0 home defeat by Belgium's Brugge after Lorenzo Staelens latched on to a through ball from Dominque Vanmaele in the 36th minute.



Stuttgart's Walter holds off Dorigo of Leeds in their Champions' Cup clash (inset) while Sheffield Wednesday's Warhurst evades a Spora tackle in the UEFA Cup (above)

In the Cup-winners' Cup Monaco, last term's runners-up, are heading for the second round after winning their first round, first leg 1-0 against Miedz Legnica in Lubin, Poland. Youri Djorkaeff scored the only goal in the third minute.

Liverpool's Ian Rush (left) scored four goals as his team crushed Apollon Limassol 6-1 at Anfield and collected his second record in eight days. The previous week Rush had equalled the Wales international scoring record. His four goals against Apollon lifted him past Roger Hunt's record of 17 goals in Europe for Liverpool.

Spanish Cup holders Atletico Madrid scored a 3-0 victory over Maribor Branik of Slovenia and FC Copenhagen trounced Finland's Palloilijat 5-0. Hapoel Petah Tikva, another Israeli team in European competition for the first time, did well to restrict Dutch club Feyenoord to a 1-0 victory in Rotterdam.

UEFA Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam won 3-0 away to Austria Salzburg while Fonseca and his Napoli team-mates, ignoring the controversy over Diego Maradona's future, crushed Valencia 5-1 in Spain. Valencia were not helped by the 50th-minute expulsion of defender Quique.

Top overall scorers were Sheffield Wednesday through their 8-1 thrashing of Spora Luxembourg, inspired by Chris Waddle, but marred by a serious head injury to two-goal Paul Warhurst.

Giuseppe Giannini hit two for Roma in a 4-1 triumph in Austria against Wacker Innsbruck and Juventus strolled to a 6-1 triumph over Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus with Gianluca Vialli scoring twice.

By contrast, injury-weakened Real Madrid had a tough time against Politehnica Timisoara in Romania, drawing 1-1 after taking an early lead through Alfonso, deputising for injured Emilio Butragueno.

RESULTS

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Prelim rnd, first legs (Aug 19)

KI Klaksvikar 1 (Danielsen 4)
Skonto Riga 3 (Astafiev 28, 46, Semenov 88)
HT: 1-1. Att: 1,500.

Olimpija Ljubljana 3 (Ubavic 50, Topic 52, Vrabac 75)
Norma Tallinn 0
HT: 1-1. Att: 3,000. Ref: Rodust (Swi)
Olimpija: Simeunovic — Podgajski, Englaro, Zulic, Hadzialagic, Vrabac, Zelko, Djuranovic, Valentinovic (Protega), Ubavic, Topic, Benedejcic.
Norma: Vanakesa — Kurilov, Bragin, Uryupin, Vinogradov, Komarov, Chmil (Tam 69), Gurbulin, A Borisov, Belokhvostov, Zhurkin.

Shelbourne 0
Tavria Simferopol 0
Att: 4,000.

Valetta 1 (Zarafa 75)
Maccabi Tel-Aviv 2 (Cohen 83, Nimni 88)
HT: 0-0. Att: 3,000.

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Prelim rnd, second legs *(Sep 2)*

Maccabi Tel-Aviv 1 (Melika 23)
Valletta 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 5,000.
Maccabi 3-1 on agg
Maccabi: Uvarov — A Cohen, Poloukarov, Brumer, Shelah — Levy, Klinger (Shriki 56), Zohar, Nimni — Metikah, Massoubi (Dricks 56).
Valetta: Curtiz — Brifa, Margery (Maka 86), Lapalla, Populis — Camilleri, Lupi, Silva, Rapalo (Adoos 87) — Zarb, Zarfa.

Norma Tallinn 0
Olimpija Ljubljana 2 (Zulic 27, Djuranovic 88)
HT: 0-1. Att: 1,000.
Olimpija 5-0 on agg
Norma: Vanakesa — Kurilov, Bragin, Uryupin, Vinogradov, Chmil, Komarov, Rewa (Volkov 54), A Borisov, Belokhvostov, Zhurkin.
Olimpija: Simeunovic — Podgajski, Englaro, Zulic, Hadzialagic, Vrabac, Benedejcic (Zibert 86), Djuranovic, Ubavic, Zelko (Protega 75), Topic.

Skonto Riga 3 (Yeliseyev 4, Semyonev 38, Astafiev 52)
Klaksvikar (Faroes) 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 3,000.
Skonto 6-1 on agg

Tavria Simferopol 2 (Shevchenko 8, Skelkhametov 13)
Shelbourne 1 (Dally 41)
HT: 2-1. Att: 16,000.
Tavria 2-1 on agg

CHAMPIONS' CUP
First round, first legs *(Sep 16)*

AEK Athens 1 (Alexandris 41)
APOEL 1 (Hadjilukas 72)
HT: 1-0. Att: 28,000. Ref: Frost (Isr)

Barcelona 1 (Amor 86)
Viking Stavanger 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 36,000. Ref: Hartman (Hun)
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Nadal, Eusebio, Amor, Guardiola, Vucevic, Witschge (Salinas 46), Goikoetxea, Laudrup (Soler 76), Beguiristain.
Viking: Lars Gaute Bo — Ingve Boe, Ulf Karlsen, R Nilsen, Mellemstrand — Meinseth, Solberg, Erik Pedrsen, Storvik, Fjetland (Tveit 72) — Ostenstad (Salte 88).

FK Austria 3 (Hasenhuttl 16, Fridrikas 82, Kogler 90)
CSKA Sofia 1 (Shiskov 57)
HT: 1-0. Att: 7,000. Ref: Craciunescu (Rom)

Glentoran 0
Marseille 5 (Voller 4, Martin Vazquez 22, 29, Sauzee 42, Ferreri 85
HT: 0-4. Att: 8,000. Ref: Reygwart (Hol)
Glentoran: Patterson — Neill, Lowry, Morrison, Devine, Bowers, Campbell, Mathieson, Macartney, Hillis, Kavanagh.
Marseille: Olmeta — Angloma, Amoros, Boli, Sauzee, Durand, Casoni, Martin Vazquez, Voller, Pele, Deschamps.

IFK Gothenburg 2 (Eskeleinen 72, Ekstrom 82)
Besiktas 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 5,923. Ref: Irvine (NI)

Kuusysi Lahti 1 (Rinne 17)
Dinamo Bucharest 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 1,330. Ref: Wallace (Rol)

Lech Poznan 2 (Trzeciak 26, Podbrozny 41)
Skonto Riga 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 10,000. Ref: Mitrev (Bul)

Maccabi Tel-Aviv 0
Club Brugge 1 (Staelens 35)
HT: 0-1. Att: 17,000. Ref: Vagner (Hun)

Milan 4 (Van Basten 5, 49, Albertini 7, Papin 64)
Olimpija Ljubljana 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 14,300. Ref: Steindl (Aut)

PSV Eindhoven 6 (E Koeman 24, Ellerman 36, 59, 64, Kieft 68, Numan 78)
Zhalgiris Vilnius 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 13,000. Ref: McCluskey (Sco)

Rangers 2 (Hateley 40, Huistra 67)
Lyngby 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 40,036. Ref: Uilenberg (Hol)
Rangers: Goram — Durrant, D Robertson, Gough, McPherson, Brown, Mikhailichenko, Ferguson, McCoist, Hateley, Huistra.
Lyngby: Brodersen — Larsen, Weghurst, Gothenberg, Christiansen, Vilstrup, Riso, Ezeugo, Hammer, B Nielsen, Jurgensen.

Sion 4 (Hottiger 17, Tulio 31, 73, Assis 76)
Tavria Simferopol 1 (Shevchenko 84 pen)
HT: 2-0. Att: 8,500. Ref: Scheiings (Bel)

Slovan Bratislava 4 (Gostic 19, Dubovsky 51, 53, Morvec 83)
Ferencvaros 1 (Lipcsei 75)
HT: 1-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Muhmenthaler (Swi)

Stuttgart 3 (Walter 62, 68, Buck 82)
Leeds 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 38,000. Ref: R Larsson (Swe)
Stuttgart: Immel — Dubajic, Schneider, Buchwald, Strunz (G. Schafer 89), Kogl, Frontzeck, Sverrisson, Gaudino, Buck, Walter (Knup 82).
Leeds: Lukic — Dorigo, Fairclough, Whyte, Batty, Rocastle (Hodge 46), McAllister, Strachan, Speed, Chapman, Cantona (Shutt 63).

US Luxembourg 1 (Deville 63)
FC Porto 4 (Semedo 41, Fernando Couto 47, Toni 51, Domingos 89)
HT: 0-1. Att: 4,000. Ref: Kelly (Rol)

Vikingur Reykjavik 0
CSKA Moscow 1 (Korsakov 75)
HT: 0-0. Att: 1,000. Ref: Ashby (Eng)

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Prelim rnd, first legs *(Aug 19)*

Avenir Beggen 1 (Krings 1)
B36 Torshavn 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 1,500.

Branik Maribor 4 (Simundja 16, 30, Tarana 48, Bonkovski 76)
Hamrun Spartans 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 5,000.

Stromsgodset 0
Hapoel Petah-Tikva 2 (Basson 81, 82)
HT: 0-0. Att: 4,000.

Vaduz 0
Chernomortez Odessa 5 (Tsimbalar 44, Lebed 47, Sak 53, Gousev 81, 82)
HT: 0-1. Att: 2,000.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Prelim rnd, second legs *(Sep 2)*

B36 Torshavn 1 (Reynheim 9)
Avenir Beggen 1 (Krahen 28)
HT: 1-1. Att: 665. Ref: Tommons (Sco)
Avenir 2-1 on agg
B36: Zakrewski — Daniel P Johansen, Tumm E Hanen, Bogi Jacobsen, Thorsteinsson, Samal Hansen, Mork (Hardley), Jens K Hansen, Jan Poulsen (Fradi Madsen), Reynheim, Simonsen.
Avenir: Koch — Ferron, Rudolphe Jentgen, Yanek, Wilhelm, Serge Jentgen, Krahen (Nowak), Weis, Scholten, Krings, Holtz (Aires Moreira de Carvalho).

Chernomorets Odessa 7 (Nikiforov 7, 44pen, 79, 89, Yablonski 20, Tsymbaler 24, Lebed 78)
Vaduz (Liecht) 1 (Stuber 85)
HT: 3-0. Att: 4,600.
Chernomoretz 12-1 on agg

Hamrun Spartans 2 (Brincat 32, 59)
Maribor Branik 1 (Parana 37)
HT: 1-1. Att: 1,000. Ref: Pezella (Ita)
Maribor 5-2 on agg
Hamrun: A Zammit — Micallef, Gorla, Grech, Brincat — Camilleri, I Zammit, Sonech, Paiber (Corbalana) — Degiorgio, Sultana (Azzopardi).
Maribor: Dubanovic — Sterbal, Ratkovic, Tarana, Lukic — Krizan, Simundja (Ciric), Binkovski, Bicakcic — Krizanic (Gajser), Bakula.

Hapoel Petach Tikva 2 (Levin 17, Bassion 69)
Stromsgodset 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 2,000. Ref: Lavissou (Cyp)
Hapoel 4-0 on agg
Hapoel: Rafi Cohen — Kozashvilli, Adoran Keysi, Oleran, Bar — Maher, Avinoam Keysi, Levi, Bassion, Levin, Mahfod, Shoshmal.
Stromsgodset: Arilset — Gustavsen, Johannesen, Hansen, Wendelborg — Isaksen, Camitz, Andersen, Knutsen, Odd Johnsen (Skau 46), Kuvicek.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
First rnd, first legs *(Sep 17)*

AIK Stockholm 3 (Simpson 51, Halistrom 56, Yevtushenko 85)
Aarhus 3 (Tofting 15, Christensen 36, 53)
HT: 0-2. Att: 3,976. Ref: Lodge (Eng).
Played Sep 15.

Airdrieonians 0
Sparta Prague 1 (Sopko 88)
HT: 0-0. Att: 7,000. Ref: Pedersen (Nor).
Played Sep 15.
Airdrie: Martin — Kidd, Stewart, Sandison, Honor, Black, Boyle, Balfour, Smith, Lawrence, Coyle.
Sparta: Kouba — Sopko, Mistr, Vrabec, Hornak, Bilek, Nemec, Chovanec, Dvisnik, Vonasek, Frydek.

Glenavon 1 (Smith 44)
Antwerp 1 (Lehnhoff 46)
HT: 1-0. Att: 3,000. Ref: Djurhuss (Fl).
Played Sep 15.
Glenavon: Beck — McMullan, Scappapicci, Byrne, McKeown, Crawford, Smith, Kennedy, Ferguson, Ferris, Crowe.
Antwerp: Svilar — Emmerechts, Brockaert, Smidts, Segers, Kiekiens, Van Rethy, Van Vierdeghen, Jakovljevic, Lehnhoff, Czerniatynski.

Werder Bremen 3 (Rufer 19, 28, Bratseth 45)
Hannover 1 (Wojcicki 26 pen)
HT: 3-1. Att: 17,000. Ref: Elleray (Eng).
Played Sep 15.

Bohemians (Dublin) 0
Steaua Bucharest 0
Att: 4,500. Ref: Veissiere (Fra)
Bohemians: Henderson — T Byrne, Best, Whelan, Geoghegan, O'Driscoll, A Byrne, Fenlon, King, Lawless, Tilson.
Steaua: Gherasim — Tanait, Pirvu, Dobos, Bacur, Iovan, Vladoiu, Dumitrescu, Ion, Panduru, Stan.

Branik Maribor 0
Atletico Madrid 3 (Alfredo 26, Garcia 43, 56)
HT: 0-2. Att: 5,000. Ref: Ceylan (Tur)

Cardiff 1 (Pike 59)
Admira Wacker 1 (Abfalterer 44)
HT: 0-1. Att: 9,624. Ref: Monteiro Coronado (Por)
Cardiff: Grew — Bird (Gorman 72), Searle, Baddeley, Abraham, Brazil, Ramsey, Griffith, Pike, Dale, Blake.
Admira: Bruber — Dotzl, Zingler, Grubber, Messlender, Abfalterer, Gutierderer (Bacher 54), Marschall, Artner, Tum, Ljung.

Feyenoord 1 (Kiprich 89)
Hapoel Petah-Tikva 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Kesseler (Lux)

Levski Sofia 2 (Borimirov 52, Getov 70 pen)
Luzern 1 (Camenzind 9)
HT: 0-1. Att: 8,000. Ref: Krondl (Cze)

Liverpool 6 (Stewart 4, 38, Rush 40, 50, 55, 74)
Apollon Limassol 1 (Spoljaric 83 pen)
HT: 3-0. Att: 12,769. Ref: Veiga Trigo (Por)
Liverpool: James — Harkness (Charnock 55), Burrows, Nicol, Redknapp, Wright, Marsh, Stewart (Rosenthal 87), Rush, Molby, Walters.
Apollon: M Christofi — Andrelis, Pittas, Ioannou, Kenny, Yiangudakis, Iosifides, Spoljaric, Djouras, G Cristofi (Sophocleos 60), *Charalambous.
**Charalambous sent off, 44 min.*

Miedz Legnica 0
Monaco 1 (Djorkaeff 3)
HT: 0-1. Att: 6,500 (in Lubin). Ref: Dellwing (Ger)

Moscow Spartak 0
Avenir Beggen 0
Att: 5,000. Ref: Anghelov (Bul)

Parma 1 (Asprilla 48)
Ujpest TE 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 11,600. Ref: Listkiewicz (Pol)
*Berczy (Ujpest) sent off, 42 min.

Trabzonspor 2 (Hami 51, 65)
TPs 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 22,500. Ref: Ostergaard (Den)
Trabzonspor: Viktor — Hamdi, Ogun, Kemal — Cyzio (Soner 46), Juri, Unal (Ismail 81), Turgut, Abdullah — Hami, Orhan.
TPs: Jakonen — Dalsborg, Hannikaisnen, Slonen, Heikinen, Keuia — Lehtinen (Lehtonen 62), Virjanen, Lipponen (Haionen 80) — Gyorgy, Rajamaki.

Olympiakos 0
Chernomoretz Odessa 1 (Sak 4)
HT: 0-1. Att: 30,000. Ref: Hill (Eng).
Played Sep 17.

Valur 0
Boavista 0
Att: 400. Ref: Van Vliet (Hol).
Played Sep 17.

UEFA CUP
First round, first legs *(Sep 16)*

Caen 3 (Gravelaine 7, 14, Paille 37)
Zaragoza 2 (Garcia Sanjuan 37, Pardeza 79)
HT: 3-1. Att: 7,000. Ref: Rothlisberger (Swi).
Played Sep 15.
Caen: Montanier — Avenet, Fournier, Point, Lebourgeois (Germain 28) — Dangbeto (Rouissi 79), Cauet, Gorter, Calderon — Paille, Gravelaine.
Zaragoza: Cedrun — Solana (Sergi 55), Julia, Aguado, Brehme — Francom Gay, Garcia — Pardeza, Mateut, Pena (Moises 79).

Floriana 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Rummenigge 21)
HT: 0-1. Att: 4,500. Ref: Georgiou (Cyp).
Played Sep 15.

Fram Reykjavik 0
Kaiserslautern 3 (Witeczek 29, Wegner 64, Kristinn Jonsson o.g. 66)
HT: 0-1. Att: 785. Ref: Aass (Nor).
Played Sep 15.

Hibernian 2 (Beaumont 4, McGinlay 75)
Anderlecht 2 (Degryse 39 pen, Van Vossen 67)
HT: 1-1. Att: 14,213. Ref: Weber (Ger).
Played Sep 15.
Hibernian: Burridge — Miller, Mitchell, Orr, Beaumont, MacLeod, Weir, Hamilton, Wright, Jackson, McGinlay.
Anderlecht: De Wilde — Crasson, Kooiman, Albert, De Wolf, Versavel, Emmers, Van Vossen, Nilis, Degryse, Boffin.

Koln 2 (Jensen 24, Ordenewitz 82)
Celtic 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Zhuk (Bye).
Played Sep 15.
Koln: Illgner — Jensen, Baumann, Higl, Rudy, Littbarski, Flick, Heldt (Weiser 89), Steinmann, Lehmann (Sturm 88), Ordenewitz.
Celtic: Marschall — Boyd, Mowbray, Gillespie., Wdowczyk, O'Neil (Grant 76), Galloway, McStay, Collins, Creaney, Slater (Nicholas 76).

Neuchatel Xamax 2 (B Sutter 51, Manfreds 52)
Frem Copenhagen 2 (Mikkelsen 17, Henchoz og 21)
HT: 0-2. Att: 4,000. Ref: Batta (Fra). ***Played Sep 15.***

Austria Salzburg 0
Ajax Amsterdam 3 (Davids 53, Overmars 65, Kreek 79)
HT: 0-0. Att: 10,000. Ref: Pairetto (Ita)

Benfica 3 (Vitor Paneira 43, 73, William 45pen)
Belvedur Izola 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Vassilakis (Gre)

Electroputere Craiova 0
Panathinaikos 6 (Franceskos 4, Warzycha 40, 53, 66, Maragos 70, Kalatzis 85)
HT: 0-2. Att: 22,000. Ref: Przesmycki (Pol)

FC Copenhagen 5 (Michael Johansen 12, 54, Uldbjerg 28, Hoyer Nielsen 69pen, Larsen 86)
MP Mikkeli 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 8,430. Ref: Kowalczyk (Pol)

Fenerbahce 3 (Aykut 14, 38, Tanju 55)
Botev Plovdiv 1 (Dermeciev 51)
HT: 2-0. Att: 12,382. Ref: Ziller (Ger)
Fenerbahce: Engin — Semih, Nuri, Novak — Mujdat, Oguz, Gerson, Stoilov (Iker 77), Aykut — Ridvan (Ismail 83), Tanju.
Botev: Andonov — Dudev, Borisov, Kochev, Rakov — Zaysev, Dimitrov, Ivanov, Petrov — Dermenciev, Tomov (Iskrenov 82).

GKS Katowice 0
Galatasaray 0
Att: 5,000. Ref: Salomir (Rom)

Grasshopper 1 (A Sutter 37 pen)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Balakov 45, Juskowiak 84)
HT: 1-1. Att: 10,750. Ref: Leduc (Fra)

Juventus 6 (Baggio 3, Moller 10, Vialli 42, 61, Conte 44, Torricelli 75)
Anorthosis Famagusta 1 (Kespaje 85)
HT: 4-0. Att: 5,000. Ref: Vagner (Hun)

Kiev Dynamo 1 (Yakovenko 46)
Rapid Wien 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 17,000. Ref: Martin Navarrete (Spa)

Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 (Sadukov 33 pen, Vidulov 57)
Auxerre 2 (Baticout 3, Cocard 74)
HT: 1-1. Att: 8,000. Ref: Baidas (Ita)

Manchester United 0
Moscow Torpedo 0
Att: 19,998. Ref: Schmidhuber (Ger)
United: Walsh — Irwin, Martin (Neville 87), Bruce, Blackmore, Pallister, Kanchelskis, Webb, McClair, Hughes, Wallace.
Torpedo: Podshivalov — Filimonov, Cheltsov, Afanasiev, Vostrosablin, Shustikov (Skachenko 79), Grishin, Martinov, Talalayev (Ulyanov 73), Chuganov, Arefiev.

Mechelen 2 (Eykelkamp 30, De Boeck 63)
Orebro 1 (Milkvist 84)
HT: 1-0. Att: 5,000. Ref: Schlup (Swi)

Moscow Dynamo 5 (Sklarov 34, 62, Timofeyev 46, Simotenkov 57, Tetradze 68)
Rosenborg Trondheim 1 (Loken 75)
HT: 1-0. Att: 7,250. Ref: Bohunek (Cze)
Dynamo: Kleimenov — *Timofeyev, Sklarov, Kasyakeb, Charadze — Kalitvintsev (Y Shvirin 81), Oganesian, Smeyevtin (Drasdov 69), Tsarev, Tetradze — Kasrimov, Simotenkov.
**Timofeyev sent off.*
Rosenborg: By Rise — Husby, Bragstad (Kvarme 46), Tangen, Bjornebye — Loken, Ingebrigtsen, Skammelsrud, Sorloth, Leonhardsen — Dahlum (Strand 75).

Norrkoping 1 (Blom 80)
Torino 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 8,601. Ref: Mikkelsen (Den)

Paris SG 2 (Weah 13, 24)
PAOK Salonika 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: McGinlay (Sco)

Politehnica Timisoara 1 (Cuc 62)
Real Madrid 1 (Alfonso 13)
HT: 0-1. Att: 26,000. Ref: Wojcik (Pol)

Sheffield Wednesday 8 (Waddle 9, Anderson 23, 29, Warhurst 31, 77, Bart-Williams 60, 81, Worthington 65)
Spora Luxembourg 1 (Cruz 11)
HT: 4-1. Att: 19,792. Ref: Philippoz (Swi)
Sheff Wed: Woods — Harkes, Anderson, Palmer, Shirtliff, Warhurst (Jemson 78), Hyde, Waddle, Francis, Bart-Williams, Worthington.
Spora: Felton — Janes, Kremer, Bei, Stange, Laera, Cardoni, Satopietro, Cruz, Rigaud, Chaussy.

Sigma Olomouc 1 (Capka 87)
Universitatea Craiova 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 6,129. Ref: Natri (Fin)

Slavia Prague 1 (Tatarchuk 85)
Hearts 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 4,594. Ref: Husainov (Rus)
Slavia: Janos — Petrous, Sichoparek, Silhavy, Berger, Tatarchuk, Lerch, Penicka, Kuka, Necas, Novak (Rusnak).
Hearts: Smith — Hogg, McKinlay, Berry, Mackay, Van de Ven, Robertson (Crabbe), D Ferguson, Baird, Mauchlen, Foster (Bannon).

Standard Liege 5 (Asselman 5, 44, Goossens 52, 65, Leonard 56)
Portadown 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 12,000. Ref: Lipkovitch (Isr)

Vac Izzo 1 (Fuele 27)
Groningen 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 2,500. Ref: Ionescu (Rom)

Valencia 1 (Roberto 54)
Napoli 5 (Fonseca 20, 60, 63, 87, 89)
HT: 0-1. Att: 34,000. Ref: Forstinger (Aus)
**Quique (Valencia) sent off, 55 min.*

Vitesse Arnhem 3 (Van der Brom 20, 56, Latuheru 89)
Derry City 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 10,000. Ref: Pinto Corre (Por)

Wacker Innsbruck 1 (Baur 36)
Roma 4 (Giannini 17, 42, Caniggia 21, Muzzi 65)
HT: 1-3. Att: 8,500. Ref: Diaz Vega (Spa)

Widzew Lodz 2 (Jozwiak 21, Koniarek 27)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Yeboah 67, Wolf 83)
HT: 2-0. Att: 7,600. Ref: Deda (Tur)

Vitoria Guimaraes 3 (Kupresanin 15, 76, Barbosa 28)
Real Sociedad 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 18,000. Ref: Puhl (Hun).
Played Sep 17.

● ALL first round second leg ties being played on Wednesday, September 30, except:
***Tuesday, Sep 29:* Cup-winners' Cup:** Steaua v Bohemians, Admira v Cardiff.
UEFA Cup: Real Madrid v Politehnica Timisoara, Anderlecht v Hibernian, Frem v Neuchatel Xamax.
***Thursday, Oct 1:* Cup-winners' Cup:** Ujpest v Parma, Boavista v Valur.
UEFA Cup: PAOK v Paris SG, Spora Luxembourg v Sheffield Wednesday.

● **2nd round draw:** Friday, October 2.

WorldCupUSA94

ENGLAND NORWAY

ENGLAND'S RECORD:

P.6 W.5 D.0 L.1 F.25 A.4

● The last meeting between the two countries, the World Cup qualifier in Oslo in 1981, was not just the only match England have lost in the series so far but the only one in which they failed to score four.

One hell of a beating . . . Norway celebrate their second goal against England in 1981. Coach Egil Olsen (right) is hoping for a repeat in this month's match at Wembley.

Olsen out for a surprise

Norway threat to Taylor

ENGLAND continue their recent series of meetings with Scandinavian opposition when Norway visit Wembley on October 14 for a World Cup qualifier.

After an unconvincing June friendly win over Finland, poor Euro '92 displays versus Denmark and Sweden, and a disaster in Spain, England will need a much more purposeful performance against the Norwegians.

Norway last took part in the World Cup finals in 1938 and always have to rely on a number of part-time players from their domestic league. But during the past decade the national team have made considerable progress.

Technical ability, athleticism and organisation have improved beyond recognition, and throughout the 1980s Norway have developed the knack of upsetting the giants.

Certainly England manager Graham Taylor does not take the Norwegian threat lightly. He stresses that there are no easy matches at international level, and believes Norway to be one of Europe's most underrated teams.

Indeed, Taylor will not need reminding that England have first-hand experience of just how dangerous the Norwegians can be.

Back in September 1981, goals from Albertsen and Thoresen gave Norway a shock 2-1 victory over England in a World Cup tie in Oslo and signalled the outbreak of mass hysteria.

While an England team containing Kevin Keegan, Glenn Hoddle and Bryan Robson trudged disconsolately to the dressing room, Norway's band of insurance salesmen, telephone engineers and shopkeepers revelled in their glory.

An ecstatic Norwegian TV commentator allowed joy to get the better of professionalism, and jubilantly listed such historical figures as Lord Nelson, Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher.

"Your boys took one hell of a beating tonight," he shrieked.

He had every reason to be excited. After all, Norway had lost all five previous encounters with England, conceding 24 goals and scoring only two. Triumph against the English in 1981 was sweet revenge.

Under Tor Roste Fossen — national manager from 1978 to 1987 — Norway were unable to find consistency, but they proved especially adept at raising their game when facing soccer's big guns.

During the mid-1980s they recorded satisfying friendly wins over Italy, Argentina and Denmark, and in 1987 France were humiliated 2-0 in a European Championship tie.

Matches

Current Norway boss Egil Olsen, who took over from Ingvar Standheim in October 1990, has been the architect of several memorable performances of his own, such as the 6-1 thrashing of Cameroon and a 1-0 win versus Romania. But Norway reserved their most potent form for the Euro '92 qualifying matches with Italy.

In June 1991, the Norwegians pulled off a sensational 2-1 victory, thanks to goals from Tore Andre Dahlum and Lars Bohinen.

The Bohinen goal was a gem. He latched on to a misplaced Massimo Crippa pass and made speedy progress towards the Italian goal. Once in the opposing penalty area, Bohinen sold Franco Baresi a wonderful dummy and slid the ball under goalkeeper Walter Zenga. The normally

All square . . . Norway and Italy drew 1-1 last November in a European Championship qualifier.

Schemer . . . Lars Bohinen.

watertight Italian defence had been clinically taken apart.

Five months later Norway frustrated Italy once more when Jahn Ivar Jakobsen scored in a 1-1 draw in Genoa. And for good measure, Norway's Under-21 side routed their Italian counterparts 6-0 in a UEFA tie in Stavanger last year.

Such achievements underline the great potential of Norwegian football, and Olsen hopes his men can spring another surprise at Wembley.

"England are always tough opponents," says 50-year-old Olsen. "But I honestly believe we can beat them. My task will be to convince my players that they can do it."

Olsen is a most interesting character. During his youth he was very active in student politics and often could be found selling radical newspapers on street corners, or attending demonstrations.

Yet Olsen's life was not entirely occupied by political meetings and radicalism. His other love was football and he made his name as a skilful attacker for Ostsiden, Sarpsborg, Valerengen and Frigg, winning 16 caps.

Not that his soccer career provided any indications that he would one day assume responsibility for the Norwegian national team. Discipline was not his strong point. On the pitch Olsen was infamous for his scruffy appearance — long hair, shirt outside his shorts, socks around his ankles.

Nor was his individualistic style of play always appreciated by his colleagues. He loved to dribble and tended to pass only when absolutely necessary.

"Players like Egil Olsen do not need team-mates," wrote a local sports reporter when describing Olsen's debut for the Ostsiden club in Fredrikstad.

On hanging up his boots, Olsen taught at the Norwegian Sports Academy, and in 1979 was appointed coach of the national Under-21 team.

After six years in charge, he was sacked and went into club management. Olsen guided Lyn Oslo to promotion from the Third Division, then worked at Aalesund.

In 1987 the Norwegian Federation recalled him to lead the Under-21s and three years later he was promoted to coach the senior side.

England know that Olsen's Norway will be well prepared. He takes a studious approach and spends hours analysing international matches on video.

The Olsen method is to compile page upon page of statistics on future opponents, then devise an appropriate tactical plan.

Another aspect of Olsen's leadership is his honesty. He is not a coach who looks for excuses after dismal results and is refreshingly forthright in his deals with the media.

Norway beat Cyprus 3-0 last year in a European Championship qualifier, but Olsen made no attempt to hide his displeasure. "I was surprised that our midfield did so little over the 90 minutes," he declared.

"Cyprus are a poor side and a 3-0 win is nothing to be proud of."

Members

The nucleus of Olsen's Norway is based on graduates from the team who took part in the 1989 World Youth Cup in Saudi Arabia. No less than six of that side — defenders Henning Berg, Tore Pedersen and Roger Nilsen and midfielders Stig Inge Bjornebye, Lars Bohinen and Oyvind Leonhardsen — are now established members of the squad.

Tottenham's Erik Thorstvedt has been the national team keeper for over a decade and 32-year-old captain Rune Bratseth is one of the best sweepers in Europe.

Pal Lydersen of Arsenal, Viking Stavanger's promising Roger Nilsen and Henning Berg from Lillestrom are likely to be in defence, as well, with Oldham's Gunnar Halle and Ulf Karlsen of Viking also looking for places.

In the battle for midfield supremacy, much will depend on playmaker Lars Bohinen, injury-prone but a neat and skilful schemer and an accurate provider at set-pieces.

Rosenborg Trondheim's Stig Inge Bjornebye and Oyvind Leonhardsen — who had a trial with Manchester City last season — and the diminutive but busy Erik Mykland of Start also are likely to play.

Up front, Tore Andre Dahlum from Rosenborg and Start's teenager, Frank Strandli, should be retained. Forward cover is provided by Jahn Ivar Jakobsen of Young Boys Berne and Sogndal's Jostein Flo.

Norway's last visit to Wembley in 1980 brought a comprehensive 4-0 defeat in a World Cup qualifier. More than a decade later, Egil Olsen's team aim to erase those painful memories.

NICK **BIDWELL**

SCOTLAND V PORTUGAL

SCOTLAND'S RECORD:

P.11 W.4 D.2 L.5 F.13 A.11

● The match against Portugal at Hampden in 1971 was Tommy Docherty's first as Scotland's manager. Goals from Derby's John O'Hare and Archie Gemmill were too late to send Scotland to the European Championship finals but ended a run of seven games without a win (six defeats, only one goal scored) and created a new optimism that led to qualification for the 1974 World Cup finals.

Gemmill scored again (a penalty) when Scotland beat Portugal 4-1 in 1980.

The countries have not played each other since 1981 when Portugal's 2-1 win was Scotland's only defeat in their World Cup group. Manuel Fernandes scored twice after Paul Sturrock, a late replacement for Kenny Dalglish, had put the Scots ahead with his first international goal.

Striker Jose Aguas, who appeared against Scotland and England in 1955, is the father of Rui Aguas, who may well play against Scotland on October 14.

Jose Torres (later Portugal's manager) scored in six successive internationals in 1966, starting with the only goal at Hampden.

N. IRELAND V SPAIN

N. IRELAND'S RECORD:

P.10 W.1 D.3 L.6 F.6 A.20

● The only Irish success came in the legendary backs-to-the-wall group match in Valencia during the 1981 World Cup finals, despite having Mal Donaghy sent off for a trivial offence. Gerry Armstrong, who scored the only goal, went on to play for Real Mallorca.

The next match between the two, in 1985, was the first international played in Palma. Pat Jennings celebrated his 109th cap, breaking Bobby Moore's British record, by keeping another clean sheet.

Spain took World Cup revenge in the 1986 finals in Mexico, going 2-0 up within 18 minutes. Colin Clarke's strange looping header pulled one back, but the Irish never looked like saving the game.

Spain's qualification for Italia '90 was effectively gained at Ireland's expense: a 4-0 win in Seville (own goals by Anton Rogan and Alan McDonald, a penalty by Michel) followed by a 2-0 win in Belfast, where manager Luis Suarez was sent off from the bench but not before the damage had been done.

The first match in the series was in October 1958. Ireland took some talented players to Madrid (Bingham, McParland, McIlroy, Danny Blanchflower) — but Spain's were even better: Santamaria, Gento, Suarez, Di Stefano, Kubala, and the Barcelona right-winger Justo Teiada, who scored four in a 6-2 win.

DENMARK V REP of IRELAND

IRELAND'S RECORD:

P.9 W.3 D.3 L.3 F.2 A.15

(includes the World Cup qualifier in 1968, abandoned at 1-1 and replayed in 1969 with the same final score)

● The two countries have never met in a friendly. The last two matches, in the qualifying group for the 1986 World Cup, were between two sets of talented under-achievers, the likes of O'Leary, Lawrenson, Brady and Stapleton losing twice to Morten Olsen, Arnesen, Lerby, Michael Laudrup & Co: 3-0 in Copenhagen (where Preben Elkjaer scored twice), 4-1 in Dublin.

Don Givens scored 19 goals for the Republic (a record broken only by Frank Stapleton) — but none in his first international in 1969, lost 2-0 in Copenhagen, Ole Sorensen scored both goals, on his international debut.

CYPRUS V WALES

● This first match between the two countries may not be the pushover it appears. Although Cyprus are best known in England for the five goals Malcolm Macdonald scored against them in 1975, they went down only 1-0 in the return, beat Northern Ireland in 1973, and lost to Scotland only 3-2 (Richard Gough heading the winner in injury time) and 2-1 in qualifying matches for the last World Cup.

Moreover, the Welsh record against the "lesser" countries is not particularly overwhelming: two goalless draws with Kuwait in 1977, a 2-0 defeat in Canada in 1986, a 3-2 win over Malta in 1988 and a 3-3 draw with Israel a year later. More recently, they twice beat Luxembourg only 1-0 in the European qualifiers, the second time thanks to a late penalty by Paul Bodin.

letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. - Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

Double defeat

SIR — Everybody has a crazy idea on how to encourage scoring in soccer. Here's mine: a scoreless draw should count as a loss for both teams!

This does far more than simply punish teams who play for scoreless draws — it would change the entire psychology of the match. All games start 0-0, hence each team would begin the match with no points, rather than one. They would therefore have nothing to lose, and would have to go forward and score in order to earn any points.

It is a simple change, yet it could profoundly alter the thinking of coaches and players.

— ALAN DOUGLAS, West Vancouver.

Photo farce

SIR — Press photographers are only doing their jobs, I know, but it is like watching animals as they chase players around the park.

There need to be restrictions over photographers both before and after matches. They are an absolute nuisance and spoil things for the genuine supporters.

Photographers have no restrictions. They hassle and chase players, yet any supporter doing this would be taken from the ground immediately and that's how it should be. There should be restrictions so that they cannot follow the players around.

— MICHELLE HOUGHTON, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, England.

England ban

SIR — Paul Gardner's claim to ban England from World Cup '94 (September), even before England had yet to kick a ball in the qualifiers and two years before the event, is over the top.

I am sure the scenes from Euro '92 provoked this response from him. On this evidence, then the Swedes, Germans and Dutch would surely be in the same boat (or miss the same boat, even) as the English.

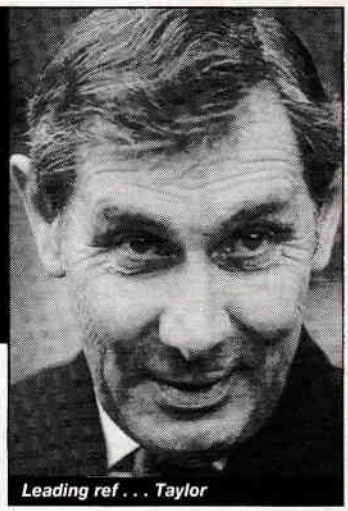
— TREVOR BLAND, Billingham, Cleveland.

The top five

SIR — Everyone has their own "all time greats" through the years but who are the greatest referees in the game? It would be interesting to see what readers think.

My own top five are 1. Joel Quiniou (France), 2. Abraham Klein (Israel), 3. Michel Vautrot (France), 4. Jack Taylor (England), 5. Gerard Biguet (France).

— T GILKS, Brighton, E. Sussex.



Leading ref . . . Taylor

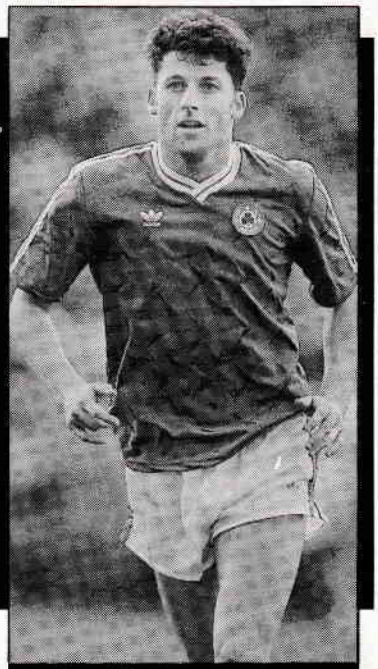
Must do better

SIR — What was England manager Graham Taylor doing in the European Championship? He did not have a regular team, and over the three games England were exposed as lacking basic skill. Never once did they put four passes together.

We in the Republic of Ireland have one of the best midfields in the game — Townsend, Keane, Sheridan and Houghton would hold their own anywhere. But when playing under Jack Charlton their job is to hit long passes, because that is what he wants.

In both England and Ireland the fans should demand better of their national teams.

— Noel Collins, Passage West, Co. Cork.



Leading midfielder . . . Townsend

Dim referees

SIR — Most referees do not know the aim of the new back-pass rule. At least that is what I feel after watching our referees applying the rule in the Premier League and the Brazilian League.

I believe the rule is to speed up the game and increase effective playing time by discouraging the negative habit of sending the ball back to goalkeepers to waste time.

Referees think it is another way of creating more goals by awarding what can be termed as near-penalty awards. Should a deflection in a tense goalmouth scramble be described as a back-pass?

This is what Sheffield Wednesday players realised in their match against Manchester City. It is high time FIFA streamlined this rule by making clear the exceptions if referees are not going to use their discretion correctly to judge what a back-pass is. Otherwise, the rule will backfire.

— GODWIN EDOH, East Dulwich, London.

Reward skill

SIR — The criticism of the new back-pass rule is ill-thought out. The first two rounds of Sweden '92 were marred by time wasting back-passes.

The goalkeeper has the negative privilege of being able to bring play to a halt, which is really only deserved in the case of a save. Football's rules should reward skill and penalise negative play.

Now defenders cannot halt an attack except by playing their way out. If they decide to kick the ball out then they are simply giving away possession. Instead, they should use the goalkeeper as a sweeper.

Kicking into touch will waste time, but this should be compensated for by the lack of back-passes played to waste time. There will still be plenty of mistakes that bring goals.

Instead of changing the offside rule, why not ban keepers from touching the ball outside the penalty area, unless in the opposition's half?

— J HANNAN, Reading, Berks.

What a good idea

SIR — What a good idea from the European Championship — every player wearing his name on his shirt. A great help to fans and to referees.

— FINBAR CHIKIBALA, Anambra, Nigeria.

FIFA fails

SIR — FIFA's attempts at reducing timewasting during matches are to be applauded, but their methods for achieving that aim are seriously flawed.

The total ban on back-passes to the goalkeeper places an unacceptable strain on defenders, goalkeepers and, it has to be said, referees.

In the Premier League we have already seen instances where free-kicks have been incorrectly given for back-passes, while other obvious back-passes have gone unpunished.

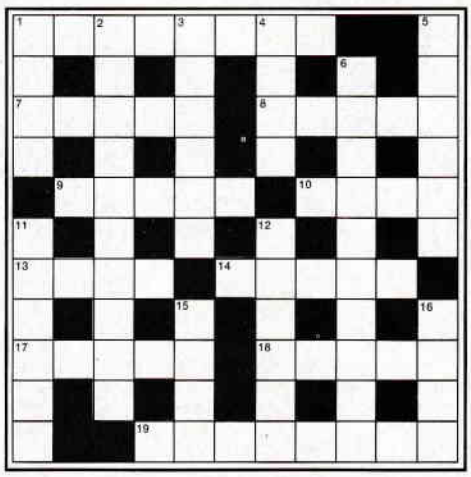
FIFA banned the back-pass because it was the most serious cause of timewasting during matches, with keepers rolling the ball out to a defender at a goal kick, only for the defender to play it back to him.

FIFA should have banned back-passes to the goalkeeper from OUTSIDE the penalty area. This would have given defenders in possession inside their own box half a chance and would have eliminated the most blatant timewasting tactic of all.

— PAUL JOHNSON, Southport, Lancashire.

COMPILED BY
Christine Ansell

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Ajax striker who shone in Holland's 1992 European campaign (8)
7. Morocco-born ex-Barcelona midfielder at Spurs (5)
8. Norwegian club from Kristiansand (5)
9. Porto striker awarded Europe's Golden Boot in 1983 (5)
10. Swarovski-Tirol defender briefly established as Austria's sweeper (4)
13. Stuttgart forward, scorer of Bayern's '87 European Cup final goal (4)
14. Goalkeeper Valerio of Lazio fame (5)
17. Skipper of Scotland's 1978 World Cup squad (5)
18. Sampdoria's 1992 European Cup final defender, Marco (5)
19. Dutch 'keeper recruited to Aberdeen in 1988 (8)

CLUES DOWN

1. German international defender with Eintracht Frankfurt (4)
2. Englishman coaching the Swiss national side (3,7)
3. Flamboyant ex-Valencia forward in Argentina's 1978 World Cup side (6)
4. S. Norwegian club — first-time champions in '87 (4)
5. Bologna's Hungarian playmaker (6)
6. Lofty Brazilian forward in Torino's '92 Cup-winners' Cup final side (10)
11. Belgian town, home to KFC Germinal (6)
12. Goalkeeper who won a World Cup winners medal in 1978 (6)
15. Recent German midfield star of Schalke and Bayern (4)
16. Paris St Germain 'keeper in France's 1986 World Cup campaign (4)

SEPTEMBER SOLUTION
Across: 1. Van Himst, 6. Asia, 7. McCall, 9. Brazil, 10. Minto, 11. Sturm, 14. Moraru, 16. Bailey, 17. Pari, 18. Atkinson
Down: 2. Ascoli, 3. Molby, 4. Tarantini, 5. Didi, 8. Australia, 12. Romero, 13. Kubik, 15. Oman

Penpals

TOTTENHAM fan, male, 22, seeks contact with female Rangers fans, 21-25.
— Stephen Pay, 38 Kingsham Road, Chichester, Sussex PO19 2AH.

ALL letters answered by fan of British and Brazilian football.
— Standwell Manda (25), PO Box 51076, Limbe, Malawi.

FOOTBALL friends wanted worldwide, writing French or Arabic.
— Dakane Brahim, Route El Wahda, Arrondisement 44, No. 3 Ain Sebaa, Casa, Morocco.

GIRL, 17, supports Liverpool, would like penpals anywhere.
— Dikra Muhsin, PO Box 14272, Baghdad, Iraq.

BAYERN MUNICH fan looking for penpals. All letters answered.
— Charles Obimpeh, PO Box 16699, Accra North, Ghana.

SOCCER fans in Europe, especially Italy, please write to 15-year-old female.
— Pirkko Kekatainen, Varamatic 7F1, 02630 Espoo, Finland.

WORLDWIDE penpals wanted, any age, m/f, any club. Photo if possible.
— Angela Han, 3418 E.49th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, VfS IM2, Canada.

I PROMISE to write to everybody writing to me. Soccer fan, 20, student.
— Ozioo Zacharie Avorgah, PO Box 13031, Lome, Togo.

FANS of Baggio, Gullit and Lineker, please write.
— Prince Cecil Biney, Adisadel College, PO Box 83 Knight House, Cape Coast, Ghana.

FOOTBALL fan looking for similar for correspondence.
— Allou Hassan, N.394 Rue Naz, Carma, Kenitra, Moroccco.

ALL female fans of Everton, Leicester, Cambridge and Celtic, 17-22, please write.
— Borre Ronqvist, N. Storgt 26H, N-3015 Drammen, Norway.

STUDENT, 16, interested in English soccer, seeks penpals worldwide. All letters answered.
— Mohammed Kamil, PO Box 12894, Accra North, Ghana.

LIVERPOOL fan (although they call me Gazza!) seeks penfriends in any country.
— Ghubani Nkala, 1829 New Magwegwe, PO Magwegwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

STUDENT, 19, looking for soccer fans as penfriends in Europe and Africa.
— Eddie Telesphory, PO Box 19, Mzumbe, Morogoro, Tanzania.

POOLS millionaire, 20, seeks female penpals. Write in English, all answered.
— Simon Barber, 146 Gordon Road, Fareham, Hants, PO16 7TA.

PETER SCHMEICHEL is my favourite. If you feel the same and live in England, Denmark or Sweden, please write.
— Francis Baiden (19), PO Box 0339, Takoradi, Ghana.

STUDENT, 20, Man. United fan, seeks penfriends.
— Frank Dadzie, PO Box 38, Kumasi, Ghana.

MARSEILLE, Liverpool, Milan and Bayern Munich fans, please write. I will reply to all.
— Lawrence Amankwah, PO Box 16662, Accra North, Ghana.

CANADIAN penpal wanted by soccer-loving fan, 22.
— Augustine Mensah, PO Box 1507, Dansoman, Accra, Ghana.

GHANAIAN footballer, moving to Sweden in a year, seeks m/f penfriends. All answered in English, photo if poss.
— Kwame Kussi, PO Box 01412, Osu, Accra, Ghana.

SOCCER fan, 28, would like to correspond with Germany, Sweden and Ajax supporters.
— Mohammed Amosawy, PO Box 14601, Baghdad, Iraq.

LIVERPOOL fan, 16, seeks penfriends in Italy/Spain/France. Please write in English.
— Keith Moorcroft, 26 Ashover Avenue, Dovecot, Liverpool L14 OPF.

I'M 18. As long as you love football, I'll be happy to hear from you.
— Prince Vicytor O'Lani, 19 Olayinka St., Itire Shru-Lere, Lagos, Nigeria.

Exchanges

I COLLECT colour photos and have 5,247 teams from 146 countries. More wanted, in exchange.
— Sandor Mihaly, H-4028 Debrecen, Zold Sandor u. 12 IV/15, Hungary.

MAGAZINES, postcards, videos of football for exchange.
— Adegbola Samedi, PO Box 522, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria.

T-SHIRTS, scarves, pennants etc. wanted in exchange.
— Sergeib Teplov, ul. Sovhoznaya h8 f191, 109382 Moscow.

ALL SORTS of soccer souvenirs wanted for exchange.
— Anto Kudjoe, PO Box 836, Sunnayi, Ghana.

EX-SOVIET VHS videos for exchange.
— Vadim Chernov, Odintsova 18/1-66, Minsk, Belarus.

MILAN supporter seeks swaps of items with other European fans.
— Andrea Iacazzi, V. Brescia 21, 20010 Cornaredo (Mi), Italy.

ROMANIAN soccer items for exchange with similar in other European countries.
— Adrian Spiridon, Str. Razboieni nr. 9, 2000 Ploiesti, Romania.

ALL kinds of soccer items wanted in exchange.
— Kostay Kosolobov, F78 h98, Un. Lenintsev St.,Moscow 109554.

EXCHANGE enamel club badges, also 29-piece coin set issued for FA Cup centenary 1972.
— Jacek Goray,PO Box 9, 61-156 Poznan 36, Poland.

AUTOGRAPHS wanted of footballers from all over the world.
— Nikola Ivanov Toshkov, PO Box 379, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.

WORLDWIDE QUIZ

TEST your knowledge with the latest *WORLD SOCCER* speciality, the Worldwide Quiz.
Answers on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope, to Worldwide Quiz (October), *WORLD SOCCER*, 25th Floor, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS, by October 25.

1 ..... Name the French player who gained 76 caps, played in two World Cups, the 1984 European Championship and won three French championships and one French Cup.

2 ..... Which England international was the subject of a video, Portrait Soccer Superstar . . . which ran for 40 minutes?

3 ..... Bora Milutinovic became coach of the United States team last year. Who preceded him?

4 ..... Who scored the first goal in the new FA Premier League?

5 ..... Paul Wolfisberg, Leon Walker and Karl Rappan are all managers . . . in which country?

6 ..... Which member of Germany's World Cup squad in 1990 was born in Hanau, birthplace of the brothers Grimm?

7 ..... Luis Gabelo Conejo is an international goalkeeper for which country?

8 ..... Which Football League club's ground is in Bumpers Lane?

9 ..... Name the player who was transferred in April for £400,000 — the highest fee ever paid for a Finn.

10 .... In which country do Shooting Stars Sports Club play?

11 ... On which ground did Kenny Dalglish (right) make his full international debut for Scotland?

12 .... Name the Hungarian who scored the first hat-trick in the Champions' Cup in 1955.

13 ... What is the surname of the three brothers who all made maximum Football League appearances for their clubs in 1970-71?

14 .... Name the Scot who was on the losing side in two FA Cup Finals at Wembley, when both winning teams were composed entirely of Englishmen.

15 ... Which club won the JAL Recopa Cup in Kobe last April?

16 .... Who coached the victorious Spanish team at the Olympic Games in Barcelona?

17 ... What scoring record was shared by McGee of QPR, Hawley of Leeds, Brown of West Brom and King of Everton in 1978-79?

18 .... In which country will the 1994 African Nations' Cup be staged?

19 ... Who appeared in two FA Cup Finals at Wembley, on opposing sides, first as players and then as managers?

20 .... Which of the West Ham players in the 1965 Cup-winners' Cup Final had previously played in another European Club Final?

Last month's winner is John Dickson from Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The usual bundle of *WORLD SOCCER* goodies is on its way.

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER QUIZ:

1 ..... Seattle (United States v Canada).

2 ..... Joe Mercer.

3 ..... Fulham. They beat Santos 2-1 in March 1973.

4 ..... Tom Finney.

5 ..... Matthias Sammer.

6 ..... Tommy Taylor (Dennis Viollet scored United's first Euro goal, but that was at Maine Road, before Old Trafford had floodlights).

7 ..... Roger Marche.

8 ..... Neil Webb.

9 ..... Nils Leidholm (AC Milan and Sweden).

10 ... Leeds in the 70-71 Fairs Cup.

11 ... Con Martin (Aston Villa).

12 ... Ken Coote of Brentford, who played for the London representative team in the 1958 Fairs Cup.

13 ... Angel Labruna.

14 ... Royal Sporting Club Anderlechtois.

15 ... Penarol of Uruguay.

16 ... The World Youth Cup, with Portugal.

17 ... Milani (Fiorentina and Inter).

18 ... Gerd Muller (West Germany).

19 ... Honduras.

20 ... Bolivia.

COMPILED BY **DAVID PROLE** AND **JOHN KELLY**.

Spotlight on ALFIO **BASILE**

'I have a contract for 30 months with the Argentine FA, until after the World Cup qualifying games. After that . . . if we lose I will have to leave. It wouldn't be right for me to stay. I don't need anybody to tell me to go.'

ALFIO BASILE, Argentina's national coach, never minces words and knows quite clearly that his main objective is to qualify the team for the next World Cup.

If he does not, he will have failed . . . even though in his first year he brought the Copa America (the South American Championship) back to Argentina for the first time in 32 years, and took the national team through a record 17 successive matches without defeat.

Basile — nicknamed Coco — is more interested in winning the next World Cup than in records.

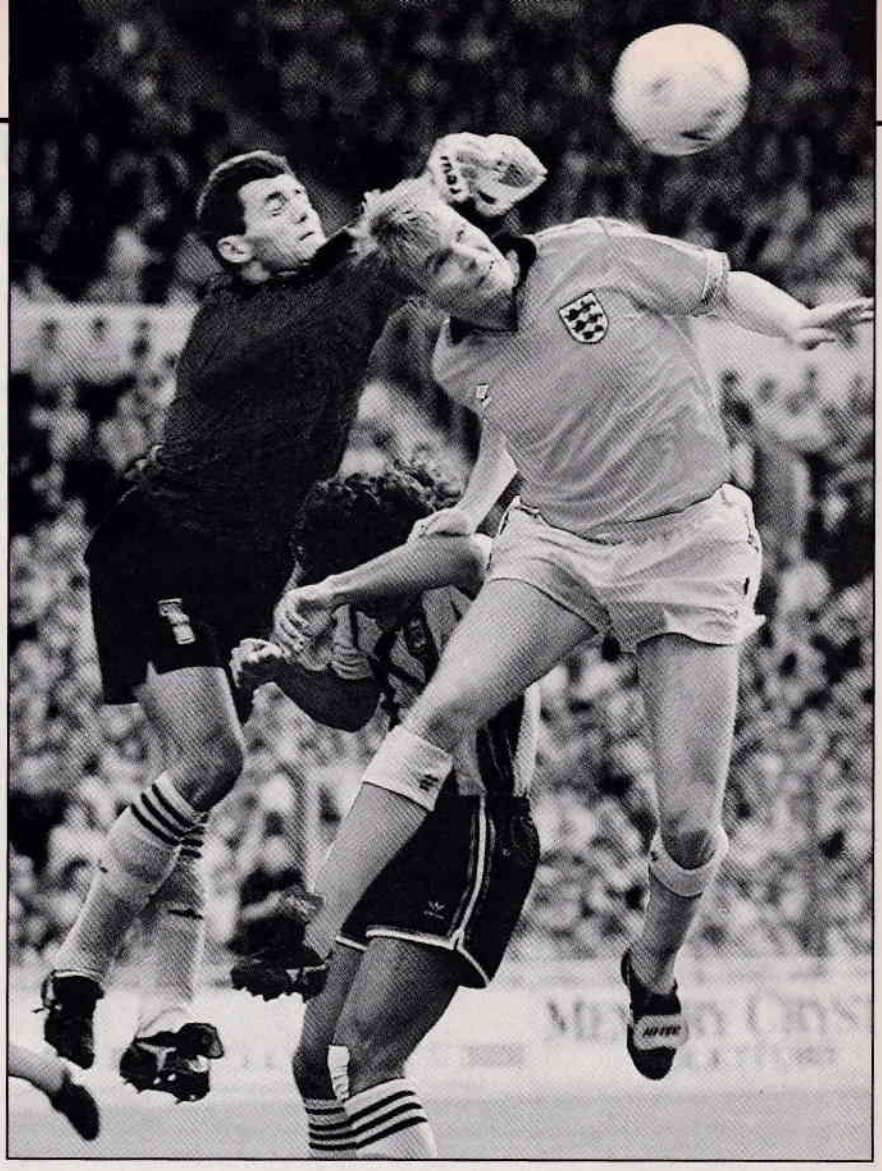
"I'm an optimist, but my first year exceeded my expectations, and my wish for this year is that it should be as good as the last," he says.

The 17-game, unbeaten run, which included a 2-2 draw against England at Wembley, and a lot of good soccer on the way, was certainly impressive.

There were 11 wins and six draws with a 30-13 goals record and all but four of the games were away.

When Basile, now 48, stepped into the boots of two World Cup winners — Cesar Menotti and Carlos Bilardo, the coaches which had preceded him — he picked a virtually new squad, including only three from the previous year's World Cup team.

One of them, Oscar Ruggeri, became captain in the absence of Diego



Goycochea punches the ball away from England's Thomas during the 2-2 draw at Wembley.

It's all go with COCO

Maradona, who later had to be discarded altogether due to his FIFA ban.

The new squad hit it off together surprisingly quickly and learnt how to play without Maradona after several years in which Argentina had relied on him very heavily.

Basile, of course, was able to train them regularly at home and even for the South American Championship in Chile he called up only two players from abroad, striker Claudio Caniggia and midfielder Diego Simeone, both with Italian clubs.

This year's squad is basically the same, but Basile has brought back goalkeeper Luis Islas, who has now agreed to be Sergio Goycochea's deputy — something he would not agree to when he was picked as second choice to Nery Pumpido for the 1990 World Cup.

His absence then allowed Goycochea to move up to No. 2 and into the team when Pumpido broke a leg.

Basile says: "With so many players abroad and the impositions of the domestic championship and South American club trophies, it is not possible to organise a proper international programme. One must do what one can add and not what one wants to do.

"I would have liked to play Holland and some other top European sides when our local championship finished, but they were all engaged in the European Championship finals."

From October 13 to 21 Argentina are to take part in the new Intercontinental Champions Cup in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Matches with France, Germany and the United States are being arranged, too. These games will enable the players to gain further experience of each other's capabilities.

"There are no fixed rules about this," says Basile. "I gave them a few basic concepts of what I want each to do, and they put them into practice.

"The most difficult part in forming a team is to choose the right players. If one makes a mistake there, that's it. But luckily things have worked out well.

"I try to find out everything possible about a player. The man himself interests me — is he a good companion? Unselfish? That sort of thing.

"With good technique one can work any kind of tactics. And I believe in specialist players.

"Everyone knows how to do something better than other things. One of the most positive things a coach can do for his team is to find what every player can do best and get the maximum benefit out of him."

Basile, a former player and coach with Racing of Buenos Aires, won nine caps. The main difference between coaching the national squad and a club side, he says, is the extra responsibility.

"Every time you play you have the whole country behind you. If you make a mistake at your club, it is serious, but it is multiplied ten times when it's the national team. The advantage is you have more players to pick from.

"I'm lucky now, thanks to Menotti and Bilardo. Before they came little importance was given to the national team. I remember as a player, around the 1960s, when I had to choose between the club and the national team, I chose the security of the former."

Next year, with the Copa America and the World Cup qualifiers, will he give preference to defending the South American title or reaching the World Cup finals?

"I don't know what FA officials will want, but I put the World Cup games first," he says.

"In the Copa America we will have the same rivals as on the way to the World Cup finals, and there seems to be no sense in risking a Caniggia or a Batistuta, to name only two, getting injured.

"There is difficulty in keeping a team in absolute peak condition for such a long period. We will be thinking of forming two squads — one for each tournament. There are enough good players here."

If the team qualify for the World Cup finals, Bilardo would like to play in Los Angeles.

"Firstly because so many Argentines live in that area, and secondly because I've always been lucky at the stadium where the Olympic Games were held."

One last question: will Diego Maradona be back?

"I have said that he always has the door open to train with the national team," says Basile.

"I don't feel I could give him any advice, because I'm not a friend of his and I'm waiting for him to make up his mind. If he works hard to get fit he could still do well in the national team.

"But for now I'm a bit worried about what people think. After going through so many games without being beaten they seem to think we can't lose . . . and that isn't true!"

ERIC WEIL

Claudio Caniggia (above) and Oscar Ruggeri (right) are two of the three players Basile retained from the 1990 World Cup squad.

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N. America

PAUL **GARDNER**

LA Law adds to the problems for Rothenberg

Potential conflict . . . president Rothenberg is feeling the pressure.

ALAN ROTHENBERG is a busy man these days. Perhaps he is too busy.

He continues to work as a trial lawyer for his law firm, he is the USSF president — and, since the firing of Chuck Cale nearly a year ago, he has taken over as the man running the World Cup.

Can one man handle all that? Yes, says Rothenberg, though "It's straining my relationship with my wife and my law partners . . . but if there's too much work, I'd have to pull back from certain parts of my law practice. I have a trial coming up, but after that I'll remove myself from court appearances for the remaining 18 months before the World Cup."

Even if overwork is not a problem, surely the dual position of USSF president and World Cup boss poses conflict-of-interest problems? "I don't see how," says Rothenberg, "We're trying to bring the World Cup and the Federation together."

Something that is not always obvious to the USSF's grass-roots membership. At the Federation's recent AGM in New Orleans, the New York state delegation proposed a motion that each of the nine World Cup '94 cities be obliged give the local state association priority purchasing rights to 2500 tickets for matches. A move that caused the usually composed Rothenberg to lose his cool.

"We've always made it clear," he explained, "We'll give preference to soccer people — to the state associations and their constituents. I objected to them feeling the need for a formal resolution. The people didn't believe *me*, I objected to that — and I didn't see the need to state a number."

Rothenberg's use of "we" when he talks of the World Cup, and "them" when referring to the state associations adequately confirms that a potential conflict of interests exists.

Things were smoothed over at the AGM with the passage of a watered-down resolution, but the argument had exposed two awkward truths: 1 — that the New York state soccer people had a problem accepting Rothenberg's word that WC '94 would treat them right; and 2 — that the USSF delegates do not understand the reality that they have no say at all in the running of the World Cup.

Legally speaking, the USSF and World Cup '94 are two totally separate organisations. The USSF can pass all the resolutions they like, but none of them is binding on WC '94. Will WC '94 even listen to the USSF?

Quite possibly, it will not. Historically, the USSF has been an ineffectual organisation, whose efforts to popularise football within the US can best be described as feeble. FIFA, it is believed, would have preferred to bypass the USSF altogether when it came to organising the World Cup.

But FIFA's own bye-laws demanded that it work through the national Federation.

Worked

The arrangement led to two years of slow progress while FIFA was involved in increasingly acrimonious arguments with the then USSF president Werner Fricker.

In 1990, FIFA's patience ran out and it engineered a coup within the USSF, getting Fricker replaced by its own candidate, Alan Rothenberg. From then on, FIFA has worked through Rothenberg to ensure that WC ' 94 will be run the way it wants. Hence WC '94 has a real justification for ignoring the USSF: it was created to do exactly that.

The independent WC '94 Organising Committee that Rothenberg has created includes no USSF people other than himself and general secretary Hank Steinbrecher (who was appointed by Rothenberg). It is an organisation that is top heavy with lawyers, mostly from California.

It could hardly be clearer that the top-level management of World Cup '94 is now firmly in the hands of non-soccer people. Meetings of the WC

Olympic misadventure

IT IS difficult to find excuses for the American Olympic flop, for this was a well-prepared team, rich in attacking talent.

In addition to the goal-scoring Steve Snow, coach Lothar Osiander had Claudio Reyna, Joe Max-Moore, Manny Lagos, Cobi Jones and Dario Brose to call on. Of all the United States teams that have entered international competition in recent years, this seemed the one best equipped for success.

Osiander's team had swept through the qualifying games with an 8-1-1 record that included an impressive 2-1 win in Mexico.

Alas, the boys did not come home with a medal.

They simply came home early. It all went wrong in the first game, a 2-1 loss to pre-tournament favorites Italy. A game that caused a bitter, and very public, dispute between Osiander and his No 1 goal scorer, Steve Snow.

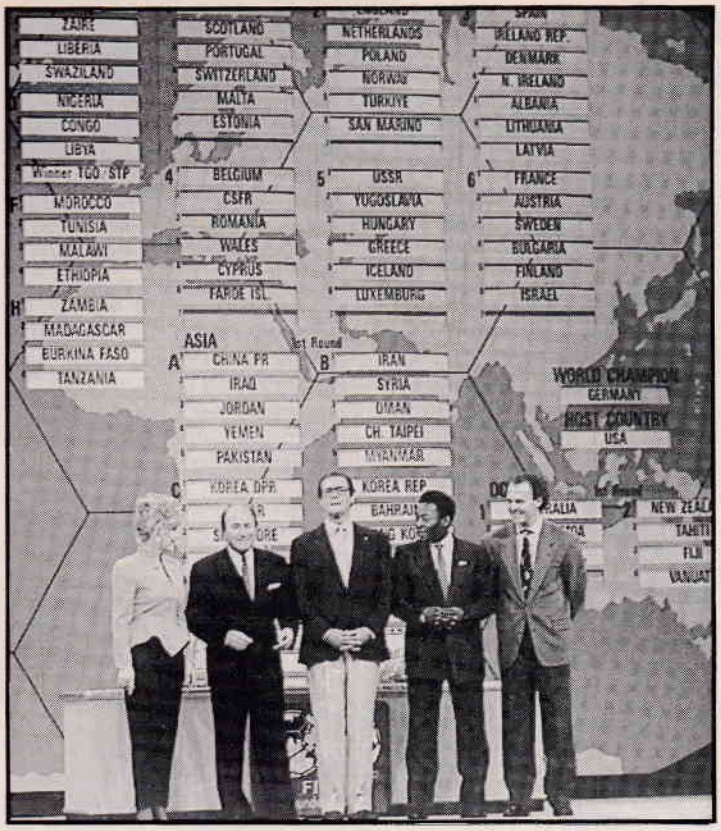
Beyond all understanding, Osiander did not use Snow at all during the Italy game. Snow — featured on the cover of the team's press guide, scorer of 19 goals in 18 games for the team — sat on the bench for 90 minutes.

After the loss, Osiander tried to justify his move by saying that he needed more speed to play a counter-attack game against the Italians.

"We wanted speed up front and it's no secret that Snow is not the fastest," explained Osiander, "and he's not good in defence."

So, to counter-attack the

Counter-attack . . . Dante Washington was brought in.



Country against country . . . the scene at the World Cup draw

'94 top brass must have more to do with the California Bar Association than with soccer.

When I put it to Rothenberg that only about 10 per cent of the 100 or so employees of WC '94 could be classed as devoted soccer people, he vehemently disagreed: "I don't accept your figures, or your definition. I'm a soccer person, Scott LeTellier (WC '94's chief operating officer, another California lawyer) is a soccer person. Anyway, to put on the World Cup you don't need soccer people, you need event management people. Look at Peter Ueberoth. He had never been to an Olympics, yet in 1984 he produced the most successful Olympics ever. You need a *blend* — and we have an excellent blend of soccer people and event management experts.

"With all due respect, the soccer people have an 80 year history of not doing the best job in the world of putting soccer on as a business. We do have a commitment to a legacy — we aim to make the sport healthy for a long time to come — you've got to have a good business head to do that."

But if the majority, say 80 per cent, of the employees disappear from soccer as soon as the World Cup is over, how is that going to help the future of the sport in the US?

To which Rothenberg replies: "We're setting up an organisation that dissolves as soon as the event is over. There won't be work unless there's a pro league. You say 80 per cent per cent of them will be gone — I'd be happy with 20 per cent giving greater commitment to soccer. We're picking and choosing — we're getting people from the soccer community. We need a mixture of competence and passion. Passion alone doesn't carry the day.

"There must be a bias towards making the World Cup successful. That's a *sine qua non*, it must succeed.

"On July 18 1994 we'll know if the event was successful. As for the future of the soccer — did the sport advance? is there a new level of involvement from people? — you can't measure that until 2000 or whenever. We'll make a surplus, and that will help."

World Cup plans are all pretty much on target, says Rothenberg. Most of WC '94's money is still coming from a loan from a Swiss bank (arranged with FIFA's help), though some is beginning to arrive from marketing partners.

Signed

"We're supposed to have eight marketing partners," says Rothenberg, "at the moment we have adidas, American Airlines, and Sprint, while Upper Deck trading cards and Sheraton Hotels have signed letters of intent. There is also a potential computer sponsor. I'd rather have eight than five, and I'm certain we'll get eight.

"It is a little bit frustrating to take so long, but I don't see any major cause for alarm — we're feeling the economy."

A ticket plan is being worked out with FIFA: "When we start selling, then we'll be flooded with money," says Rothenberg, "I can't tell you when, but probably sometime this autumn, or early next year."

The relationship with FIFA is described by Rothenberg as "very, very strong . . . they continue to be very pleased with what we're doing."

But progress on the pro league — cited by Rothenberg as the key to future soccer success — has been minuscule. Rothenberg admits that there's "Nothing to report. I'd prefer to say there's been progress . . . but the pro league is not easily planned — there is no panacea. It needs serious investment capital over a long period of time, and maybe a more robust economy."

Somewhat surprisingly, Rothenberg does not see the collapse in July of the Major Indoor Soccer League as a setback: "Well, it's one more failure to discuss with potential investors — but our focus is on an outdoor league and I don't think the demise of the MISL really impacts on that. I think you can easily fit indoor and outdoor together — but our biggest problem remains the lack of stadiums.

"If we had 25,000 seat soccer stadiums, I'd launch a soccer league yesterday and prophesy 1000 per cent success."

The existing American Professional Soccer League has only five clubs, and rumours abound that the USSF finds it an embarrassment, and will do nothing to help it survive. "That's not true," says Rothenberg, "The APSL clubs are doing their best to improve — they'll be given an opportunity to step up if they can meet the criteria we are laying down."

An optimistic Rothenberg, then, with only the botched Olympic adventure in Barcelona to upset his thoughts. But the younger US teams have done their best to erase that sour memory.

The Under-20s have qualified for next year's Under-20 World Cup in Australia, while the Under-17s won the recent CONCACAF championship in Cuba, and thus qualified for next year's Under-17 World Cup to be held in Japan.

counter-attacking Italians, he included speedster Dante Washington at centre-forward.

The idea was to bring on Snow in the second half. But the Italians were 2-0 up after only 20 minutes.

Then, when two US defenders got injured, they were replaced by other defenders, and Snow was left to fume on the sidelines.

In keeping with his formidable reputation as a difficult character, Snow spoke out: "This team cannot play without me. You don't have the best player on the team sitting on the bench. We would have won that game, or at least tied, if I was in there."

Snow then made it clear what he thought of Osiander's comments about his lack of speed: "His idea of the perfect soccer player is a track guy."

Osiander was not amused, replying "If he wants to play, he can apologise." Snow shot back with "I'm not kissing up to him just so I can get into a game." A truce was called, Osiander got his apology, and Snow played in the next two games — a 3-1 win over Kuwait and a 2-2 draw with eventual silver-medallists Poland.

Snow, true to form, got a goal in each game. But the US were eliminated.

The Olympic failure did not pass unnoticed at the top level of the United States Soccer Federation. In a recent interview, USSF president Alan Rothenberg commented: "Was I disappointed that we didn't go further? Absolutely. Was I disappointed that the first pitiful 20 minutes against Italy did us in? Absolutely.

"Those first 20 minutes were a bitter disappointment — maybe in my two years as president, the only serious on-field disappointment.

"We *should* have got past the first round. Is that the responsibility of the coach? Absolutely."

Asked if that meant that Osiander would be dismissed, Rothenberg replied: "We're evaluating the situation. I think next time around we will go with a full-time coach."

When it was pointed out that Osiander, who works as a waiter in a San Francisco restaurant, could not be signed on as a full-time coach, Rothenberg said: "I'll leave you to make your own speculations."

CANADA

Gates still sliding

SPECTATOR interest in the semi-professional Canadian soccer scene is at an all-time low, despite the approaching play offs.

Four of the six teams in the Canadian Soccer League are averaging little more than 1,500 fans per game, the exceptions being London and Vancouver.

London Lazers have a highest attendance of 324 and lowest of 197, while in Vancouver, where interest is highest, the 86ers regularly top 4,000.

In a new departure this season two teams from the Canadian Soccer League, plus Chicago String of the Major Soccer League, joined teams from the American Professional Soccer League to play for the Professional Cup.

Vancouver 86ers were eliminated by Colorado Foxes, Montreal Supra lost to Tampa Bay, Chicago were beaten by San Francisco and Fort Lauderdale overcame Miami, leaving the four APSL teams to meet in the semi-finals.

Despite losing both games to the Foxes, 86ers are still the team to beat in the Canadian League, and led North York Rockets by six points. They were followed by Toronto Blizzard and London Lazers, with Montreal Supra challenging three of the four above them for the final play-off spot. Winnipeg Fury, in last place, were out of the picture.

—COLIN **JOSE**

FACE FACE

ANTONIO MATARRESE is one of the most powerful and influential men in European football. At a comparatively-young 52 he is president of the Italian federation — a post he has filled for five years, joint vice-chairman of UEFA, chairman of UEFA's Fairplay Committee, a former president of Bari, a former president of the Italian League and a politician. His achievements include increasing the number of clubs in Italy's Serie A from 16 back up to 18 and presiding over the liberalisation of foreign import rules.

In this **FACE TO FACE** interview he tells **Mark Irwin** his views on the proposed European League, UEFA's role within FIFA and his own role in the spheres of politics and sport.

Balancing act

: IT is no secret that Milan, the strongest team in Italy, are pressing for the formation of a European League under president Silvio Berlusconi. With that in mind, what is the future for the Italian league?

AM: Every president tries to take the water to his own well. The mere presence of Berlusconi has created some waves in our system. But I can safely say that he often comes to us with plans to raise the levels of Italian football because he knows he must stop somewhere. It's not in his interests to disrupt the equilibrium. Milan are a powerful presence in European football and their economic interests are growing all the time, but this federation can block even Berlusconi. He knows there are certain limits beyond which even he cannot go. There are many clubs in Italy. It's not just Berlusconi we have to look after. You always hear about him because he sells his image very well. He has a very overbearing presence. But we know what he's driving at and we know where we can stop him if we like.

: But with Real Madrid also backing Milan's initiative, will the demand for a European League prove irresistible?

AM: There is no space for such a league. And UEFA is so strong that it can clamp down on these initiatives. The top European clubs can only play each other under UEFA's control. It is impossible for clubs to act on their own. Berlusconi and Ramon Mendoza can say what they want about a European League but they know they cannot clash with UEFA.

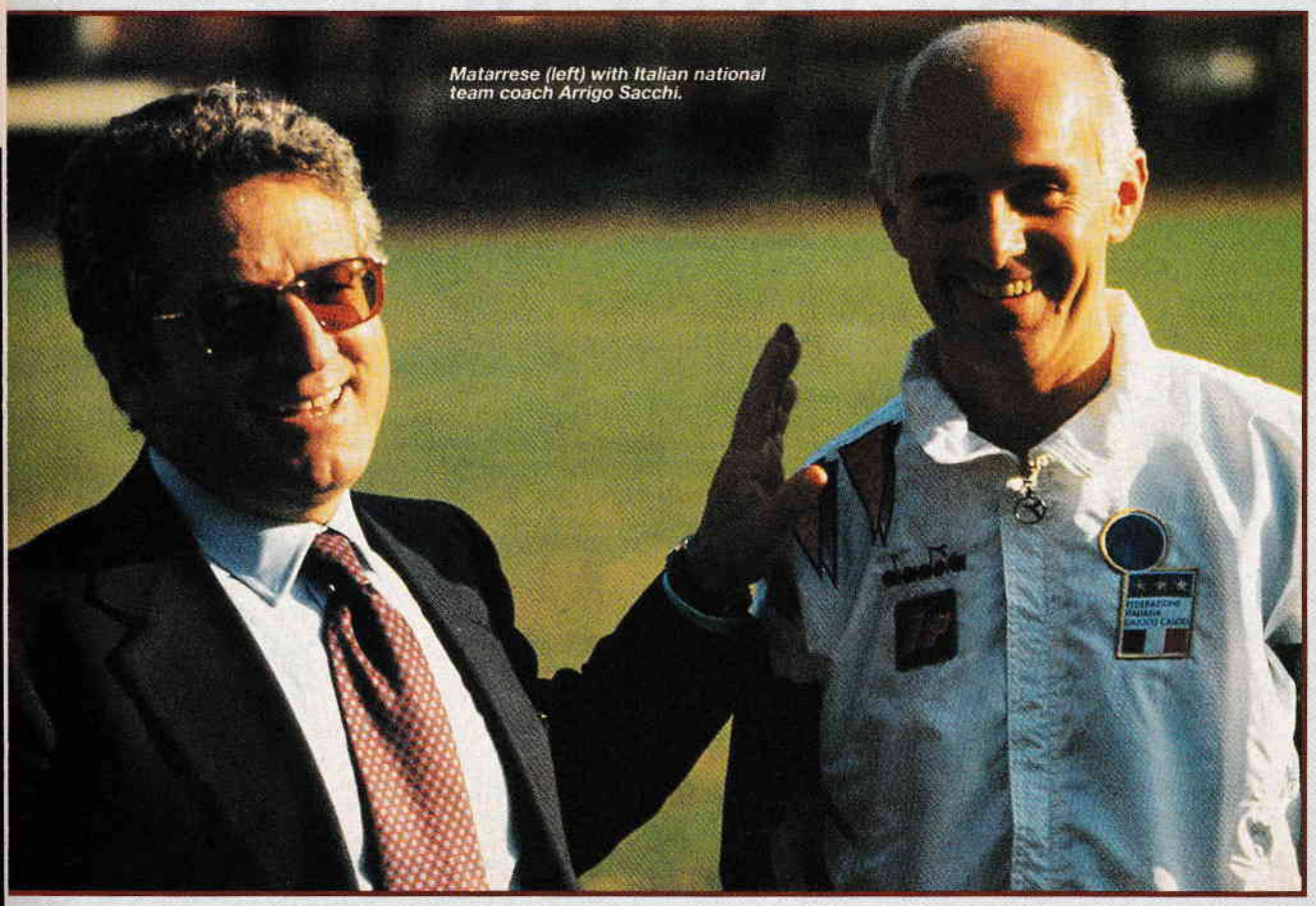
: Yet surely the development of the European Community means that a European League is inevitable?

AM: It's impossible to say it will *never* happen. Maybe one day all the national barriers within Europe will crumble and then we can start to think of one league. But the system we have has yielded excellent results and UEFA wants to maintain the present structure intact. It cannot abdicate its role and cannot allow certain clubs to become richer to the detriment of the poorer clubs.

: So does the future of football lie at national levels or internationally?

AM: Sport has no boundaries. The fact that the World Cup is going to the United States shows that planet earth needs football. World soccer will get a new impetus from the US. Then there is a World Cup in Africa to organise. The future of the game is very bright.

: Does that mean the national game will become less important?



Matarrese (left) with Italian national team coach Arrigo Sacchi.

AM: No. It is important to defend national soccer. It must remain in the minds and the will of the Italian people. If you don't defend your own territory the concept of conflict fades, and that is essential for the sport. But we must remain open to outside influences.

: Yet you have fought to limit the number of foreign players in Italian football to three per team. Why?

AM: It was an unpopular decision with some clubs, but I had to protect our national game. When UEFA issued their guidelines about the number of EC players each club was allowed, I was very concerned to prevent Italian football becoming invaded by foreign players.

: Is Italian football in a healthy state?

AM: Yes. Things are going very well. Gates are up and there is more money than ever. Last season our game generated 271 billion lire at the turnstiles alone — an increase of five per cent. Attendances rose to 9,425,000 because of the better standards of safety and security at our stadia. It's like living on a happy island without the realities of the political problems in Italy.

: Arrigo Saachi told us that it took a great deal of courage to appoint him coach of the Italian team. Is that a view which you share?

AM: That's Saachi for you. He's a man who must always go beyond himself. He's not just a technical expert. He is also gifted with great charisma. He's always very active and interested in everything. Not a day goes by without him calling me on the phone. He keeps me constantly busy. So, yes, it did take a lot of courage to take on a man like him.

Matarrese spans the great divide between politics and sport

: What did missing out on the European Championship finals mean to Italy?

AM: Italy's absence was a great loss for the whole of European football. UEFA suffered more than we did. But we didn't like being absent and it was a great disadvantage for our game.

: There was talk of increasing the finals to 16 teams. Bearing in mind Italy's absence, did you support that proposal?

AM: That's an embarrassing one as I am also vice-chairman of UEFA. There was an argument for the possibility of more teams, but we didn't want to water the Championships down. The executive committee decided on eight teams and I agreed with that. We passed up on certain economic opportunities to maintain the standard of the sporting event.

: How will the rapid political developments taking place in Europe affect the game?

AM: We can only gain from the presence of more federations. UEFA has received a very positive impetus from their presence. It has made European soccer more interesting. When you stagnate, interest fades. With so many new participants in the European competitions, it has been difficult to find enough room for them all and enough days in the calendar to play all the games. It's a problem, but one on which we are working painstakingly to find a solution.

: With 43 nations now belonging to UEFA, Europe has an even more important role in world football. Do you believe UEFA needs more places in the World Cup finals?

AM: That's a very delicate point. UEFA is growing but we have to be careful not to break the equilibrium. We enjoy a high political profile within FIFA and have a very good relationship with Joao Havelange. But he cannot step on other people's feet. Conflicts do exist but we have to strike some sort of balance.

: On a personal level, does being president of the Italian federation and vice-chairman of UEFA create a certain conflict of interests?

AM: Whatever UEFA decides, I cannot help but share. I must promote Italian football whenever I can but not when it means the impoverishment of others. UEFA exists only if it can assist those poorer federations. The fact that Italy contributes more than any other nation to the UEFA budget means we are a respected federation and enjoy a privileged position. The poorer members may not feel so close to the sun, but UEFA respects them just as much.

: Bearing in mind the enormous influence you already have on world football, do you have any further political ambitions within the game?

AM: I have never made plans. I hear people say that I am a candidate to become president of UEFA or even FIFA and it is important that we all recognise our values. Mine is being a member of the government. That has been useful to establish an intelligent link between the world of sport and the world of politics. In time I know I must make some important decisions, and it is fair to say that I have my aspirations. After all, without hope you are a dead man.

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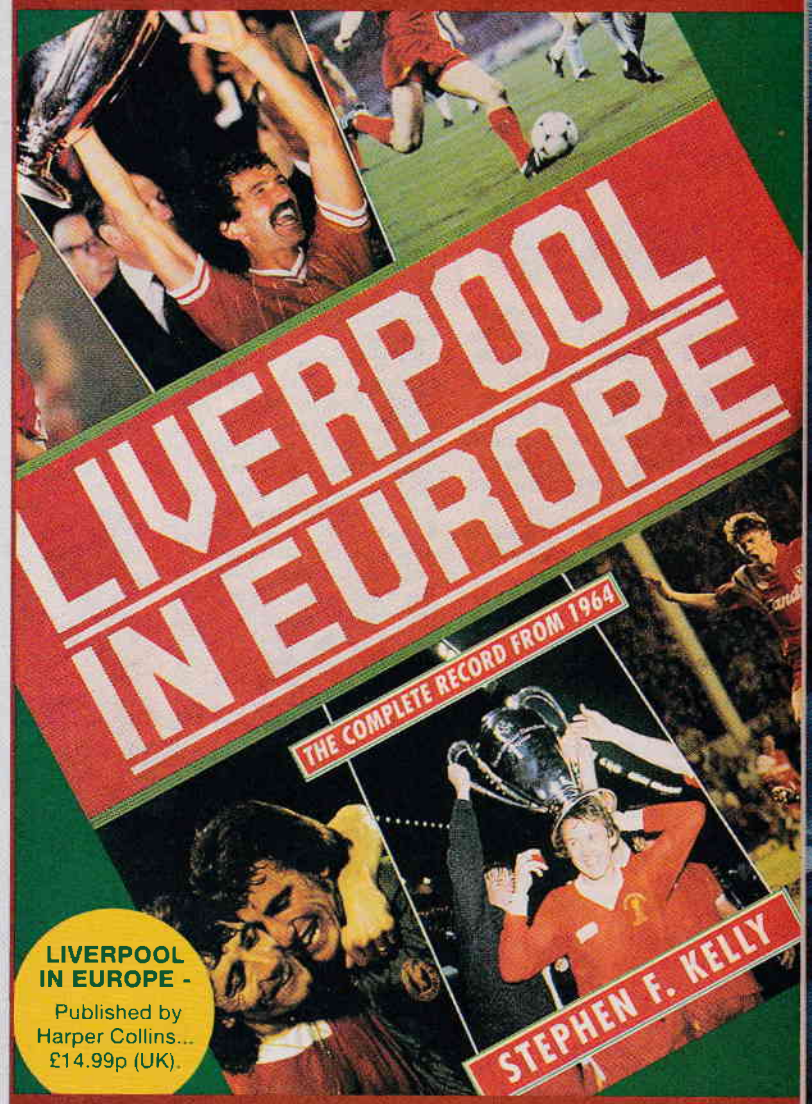

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MICHAEL HART of *The Evening Standard* talks to a coach predicting England's decline into a third-class football nation

PRESS BOX

Down, down,

Cartwright blames 'blinkered' coaches

Speaking out . . . John Cartwright.

"IF something isn't done we'll be a third-class football nation because we're not far off being second class already. The third world is not far behind us now because their kids are all playing in the streets like we used to."

John Cartwright makes no secret of his opinions about the state of English football. With a difficult World Cup qualifying programme about to begin, there are other influential voices in the game now realising the truth of what he has been saying for some years.

Cartwright learned the basics of his trade in the back streets of Bethnal Green in East London, but that is not what makes his point of view so relevant today.

Earned

His modest playing career at West Ham, Crystal Palace and with the England Youth team was prematurely terminated by injuries received in a car accident. He turned, with immediate success, to coaching.

It is as a coach, particularly with youngsters, that he has earned his reputation in professional football.

He is now 51 (52 on November 5) and, having devoted more than 30 years of his life to a game he loves, he is angry and disillusioned.

There have been countless examples in recent years of English teams, both at club and international level, outmanoeuvred by foreign players technically more accomplished. The touch, control and vision of Spain's players in their 1-0 win over England in Santander last month was unquestionably superior.

"Standards are extremely low now and the development system, if you can call it that, is a complete mess," said Cartwright.

"Unless more thought is given to the problems of the sport's raw material, which is young players, the game in this country will continue to go downwards."

Cartwright worked under Malcolm Allison and Terry Venables as youth team coach at Crystal Palace, twice won the FA Youth Cup and supplied the raw material for Palace's much-acclaimed "Team of the Eighties".

He left Palace to become England's first full-time youth coach under Ron Greenwood and won the European Championship. In 1982 he went to Kuwait for three successful and lucrative years but returned to become first team coach at Arsenal under Don Howe.

He went back to Kuwait for two more years but returned in 1989 to succeed Dave Sexton as technical director at the Football Association's School of Excellence at Lilleshall.

Cartwright resigned in disgust 15 months ago and the school, created to produce an elite group of young footballers for the English game, is expected to close next year.

"I think I'm qualified to express deep concern about what I see as a dropping of standards among young players in this country," said Cartwright, now youth team coach at Charlton Athletic.

"One of the reasons I left the Football Association is because I felt I would be able to express my feelings more freely."

Confined

Cartwright questions the role of the FA and the English Schools' FA in the development of young players but has confined his harshest criticism to one man — Charles Hughes.

A former schoolteacher and manager of Great Britain's amateur team, Hughes is the FA's director of coaching and has been one of the most influential voices in coaching for two decades.

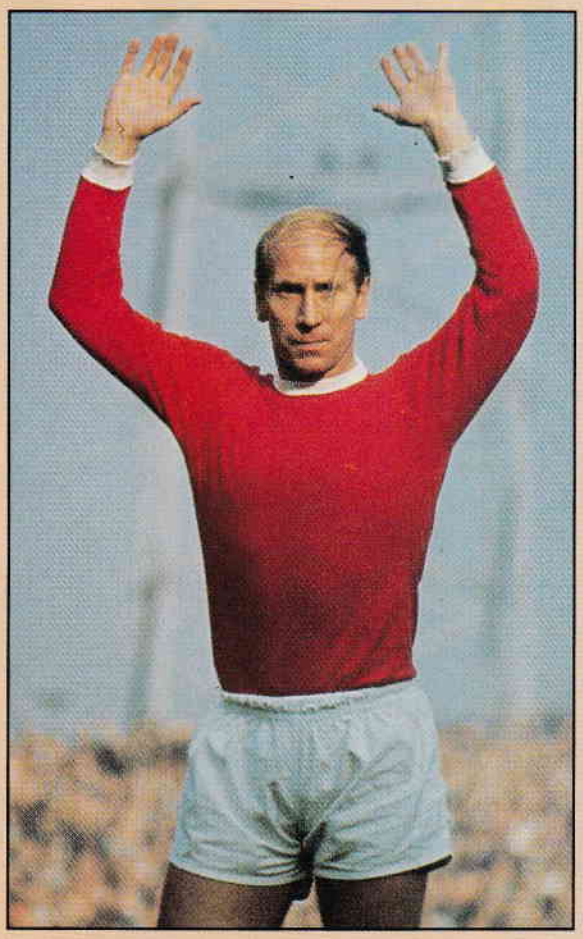
He dictates coaching theory in England and has produced statistics to prove that the long ball game is the most successful. "We're told that to win matches you have to play five passes or less before shooting," said Cartwright.

"The FA's own coaching scheme lacks a real commitment to the development of young players and the improvement of playing standards overall.

"They have allowed the English Schools FA to dictate to them to such a degree that in this country boys are allowed to work for only one hour a week with qualified people. This would be laughed at in Germany.

"The FA have allowed schools and junior football too much control and one of the consequences is that competitive match play dominates to the detriment of practice.

"Compounding the problem has been the introduction of direct play teaching. The business of winning matches is the lifeblood of



The type of talent that produced itself . . . England legends Bobby Charlton (left) and Jimmy Greaves.

down!

Early starters . . . Bobby Moore (below) and Steve Perryman (bottom).

the competitively-minded coaches in junior football.

"The English Schools' FA dominate the development period. They believe they should protect the child from the pro game. Their rules actually restrict practice time for young players.

"Until youngsters get more contact with the ball under the eye of qualified people we are going nowhere.

"If I walked into a Maths class I wouldn't throw a book of Calculus at the pupils and say 'work that out' without first teaching them addition and subtraction

Dominated

"The development of youngsters today is match dominated. The competitive game should be the examination of the work done. All we do in this country is keep examining. There are no lessons."

Some of the most promising youngsters play as many as 150 competitive games a season. In such circumstances the time for acquiring skills is minimal. That apart, because of the number of games played, stress injuries are becoming increasingly prevalent among the best players.

It is no surprise to Cartwright, then, that fewer and fewer are reaching the pinnacle of the professional game.

Can you name half a dozen good teenagers currently playing in the Premier League? You have Ryan Giggs at Manchester United, Ray Parlour at Arsenal, Chris Bart-Williams at Sheffield Wednesday.

It's difficult after that . . . Andy Turner, at Tottenham, Dean Gordon at Crystal Palace, Andy Myers at Chelsea.

The big clubs today seem unwilling to devote the time, energy and money needed to develop good young players. Most would rather write another £1 million cheque in the belief that you can buy instant success on the transfer market.

It is a dangerous and short sighted policy that is threatening the future health of the game.

Talent has to be taught before it can be bought. Down the years football clubs, big and small, took the kids off the streets and taught them to play to professional standard.

Every era produced a talented crop of players good enough for first team football in their teens . . . Bobby Charlton, Jimmy Greaves, Bobby Moore, Alan Ball, George Best, John Hollins, Alan Hudson, Mike Channon, Leighton James, Charlie George, Trevor Francis, Steve Perryman, Ray Wilkins, Glenn Hoddle, Norman Whiteside, Paul Allen.

The list, once endless, is heading into a cul de sac. Today we are losing sight of the difference between what is good and what we simply think is good, or are told is good, simply because it costs a lot of money.

"I told Charles Hughes when I gave a report on the standard of the players at the national school at Lilleshall that I didn't think the technical level of the players was high enough for excellence to be achieved," recalled Cartwright.

"The platform wasn't there. You couldn't launch yourself towards excellence because you were starting at square one instead of square ten. He told me I was negative and didn't know what I was talking about."

For Cartwright football is a game of spontaneity, touch and vision. "Players today lack imagination, skill, invention and tactical understanding," he said.

"Young players are fearful and have little ability to combine with each other. They are frightened of making mistakes, but the only way you learn is by making mistakes.

"Even the managers of the big clubs today have to take short cuts. They don't have time to teach skills. So what do they do? They get the ball forward early and work off the mistakes of their opponents.

"The only thing they can improve upon dramatically is (a) the physical side and (b) organisation. That's what kids do today from day one. They work on strength and organisation. The technical side is forgotten.

"Where's Jimmy Greaves today? Or Bobby Charlton? I remember playing in the England youth side with Greaves and watching him go past four defenders and score. Today's youngsters are told not to run with the ball.

Produced

"Have as few touches as possible and get it forward early. Don't be imaginative because it increases the likelihood of mistakes. We are catering for mediocrity and we're calling it greatness.

"Talent like Greaves and Charlton used to produce itself. Today football is having to produce the talent.

"Greaves, Charlton, the World Cup winning team of 1966 . . . ask any player from that era and almost without exception they will tell you they produced themselves playing with a tennis ball on a street corner.

"Teachers and the English Schools FA simply produced a framework of matches for them to play in.

"But that era is gone. Kids aren't playing on street corners. The sport should be producing its own talent but is not allowed to do so properly.

"The National Football School has been drawing from a system that is bankrupt in talent. By the time kids reach 14 it is almost too late because not sufficient work has been done prior to that age.

"Why has the FA allowed this situation to develop? That's what I'd like to know."

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Winter Black can be best

FEW players find their new fans turning on them before they have kicked a ball. Aaron Winter has . . . but he's not letting racist thugs spoil his dream move to Italy.

Talented Dutch midfielder Winter's arrival at Lazio was greeted by an outpouring of racist graffiti around Rome. Some people would have headed back to the tolerance of Holland, but not Winter.

He is determined to make his £2.5m move from Ajax a success — and no amount of hate is going to stand in his way. To borrow a catchphrase from the hit British film *The Commitments:* "I'm Black and I'm Proud."

A salary of around £800,000 certainly helps to soothe whatever may trouble him off the park, but Winter is desperate to change any misguided Roman mind in the best possible way.

"I heard all about the incidents," he says. "But remarks about my colour don't bother me. The only way to make such people quiet is to play very well, and then the voice of the decent majority will be heard."

The Ultra Thugs in Lazio even dished out a double helping of hate to Winter, declaring that he is Jewish. The misinformation came from the fact that Ajax still have the label of "Jewish club" hung around them, when they clearly have not been such a club for many years.

Winter, whose parents are from Surinam, is not the first player to meet this right-wing lunacy from Italian fans. Ronny Rosenthal's proposed move from Liege to Genoa a few seasons ago was met with similar anti-semitic rantings on that city's walls.

Winter's Dutch team-mates Ruud Gullit — who called the abuse of the new Lazio player "monstrous and uncivilised" — and Frank Rijkaard have educated Italians about the futility of racism.

Over the past few years with Milan they have shown that in terms of football aesthetics, black is beautiful.

Winter is ready to show that he is a worthy successor to his countrymen. "It has always been a dream for me to play in Italy," he says. "They have the strongest League in Europe. The people are crazy about football. The interest is so great and the standards so high who would not want to play here?"

Winter quietens racist louts

Lazio moved in for Winter just before the start of the European Championship in Sweden and did not take long to agree the four-year deal.

"I know the Italian people always expect a lot of newcomers, right away," he says. "It will take me a couple of years to reach the Gullit-Rijkaard level and it will take a little time to change from living in one country to another. It's not just the language, it's the everyday life which is different.

"But I'm a good football player and I'm going to try everything to bring something a little bit different to the team."

Winter had the best soccer education possible in Europe — the Ajax academy. He was spotted at 13 playing for a youth team in Lelystad, a suburb of Amsterdam, and has gone on to follow other old boys such as Cruyff, Neeskens, Van Basten, Rijkaard and Gullit.

Winter, 26, made the club a huge profit by moving to Lazio. His talent was obvious and was never going to be held back.

Earned

He made his debut for Ajax at 17, and once he had broken through, he never dropped out.

He earned a place in the Dutch World Cup squad at Italia '90 and last season he was instrumental in helping Ajax to an exciting success in the UEFA Cup, but he knew the time was coming when he too would leave for bigger things.

Now as he and that other costly import, Paul Gascoigne, settle down to a new life, Winter spares a thought for those he left behind. Ajax, he says, will be great again and he's certain they will churn out more talented youngsters.

"Ajax have always been great for rearing young players," he said. "Every year some leave the club, but every year they are replaced. I'm certain that Ajax will remain a top club in Europe."

PHIL GORDON

Barros America ahoy!

Portugal will be there in 1994

PORTUGAL have not reached the final stages of a major international tournament since the Mexico World Cup in 1986, but Scotland, Italy and Switzerland would be foolish to underestimate them in the qualifying games for 1994.

That's the view of midfielder Rui Barros, who says: "Our manager, Carlos Queiroz, is building a promising new side with a good blend of experience and youth.

"In addition to the older generation of Paulo Futre, Vitor Paneira and myself, we have some great youngsters — Fernando Couto and Paulo Madeira, for example.

"I made my full debut for Portugal in 1987 and so far I have missed two European Championship finals and Italia '90. It's been frustrating, but I'm determined to make up for lost time. We'll be in America in '94."

Barros has gained little satisfaction from national team duty, but has gathered an extensive collection of club honours.

In the 1987-88 season he starred as Porto captured the European Super Cup, World Club Cup and domestic League and Cup double. During a spell in Italy (1988-90), he was a regular for Juventus, who won the UEFA Cup and the Italian Cup.

Another prize came his way when he signed for Monaco in 1990. The Monegasques upset Marseille 1-0 in the 1991 French Cup Final, and Barros duly received his seventh winner's medal in four seasons.

Last spring, Barros appeared set to add to his stock. Monaco were in the French Cup Final and the European Cup-winners' Cup Final, and were only one point behind League leaders Marseille.

But Marseille effectively clinched the championship by winning 3-0 in Monte Carlo. Then the Bastia stadium tragedy led to the abandonment of the 1992 French Cup, and to complete a season of anti-climax, Monaco's dreams of European glory were shattered when Werder Bremen overcame them in Lisbon to take the Cup-winners' Cup.

"The defeat by Bremen was the first Cup Final I had lost in my career," says Barros. "It should have been a wonderful occasion for me. Many of my family were at the game and a lot of Portuguese fans had gone to support me.

"I had only just recovered from a tibia injury and did not play particularly well. We were the better side, but Werder took full advantage of our mistakes."

At a little over five feet tall, Barros is the smallest player in the French First Division. But his talent has made a big impression on Monaco coach Arsene Wenger.

"Rui Barros has so many qualities," says Wenger. "He is very quick, skilful and consistently surprises opposing defences with his runs from deep. He buzzes all over the pitch and is one of the most enthusiastic professionals I've ever worked with.

"My only reservation concerns his finishing. In two seasons at Monaco he has scored 13 League goals, but that should be much higher. He tends to lose his composure in front of goal, and must improve this aspect of his game."

Economic times were hard and at the age of 12 Barros was forced to leave school and earn a living alongside his father in a furniture workshop. He had abandoned his studies, but had no intention of giving up his passion for football.

Recruited

He repeatedly shone with the Allados club in Lordelo, and in 1981 he was recruited by Second Division Pacos Ferreira.

A year later, Barros moved one step closer to stardom when Porto signed him — although he admits that he does not have pleasant memories of his early days there.

"The junior team coach, Antonio Feliciano, preferred tall and powerful youngsters and was angry that he had not been consulted about my arrival. He told me that I would never make the grade, and often made fun of my build.

"I did not consider my lack of height as a handicap, and when Feliciano claimed I was too small to be a professional, I became even more determined to prove him wrong."

Barros worked tirelessly in training and established himself in the Porto youth team, who won the national championship in 1984.

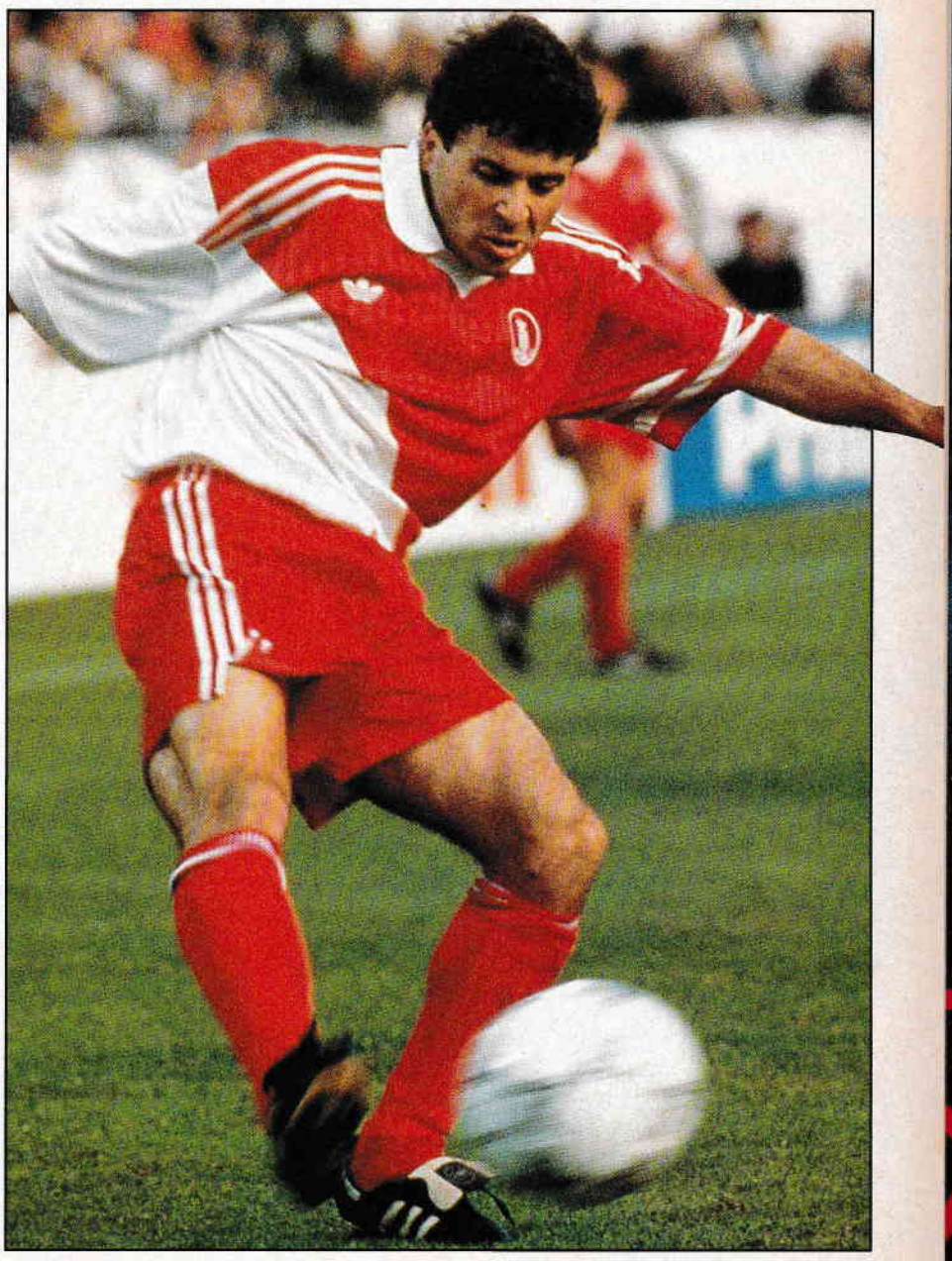
Unfortunately, there was no room for him in Porto's senior squad and he spent two years on loan to Second Division Covilha. He then had a productive spell at Varzim, and in March 1987 he made his international debut in a 2-2 draw with Malta in Madeira.

Not surprisingly, Porto recalled Barros and he was the revelation of the 1987-88 season, contributing 14 goals to Porto's League title and playing a prominent part in the victories in the Portuguese Cup, World Club Cup and European Super Cup.

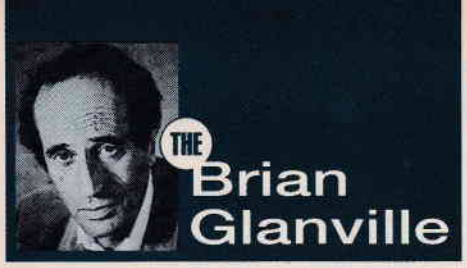
In the summer of 1988 Juventus were sufficiently impressed to pay £3.5 million for him. Cynics declared that Juventus had made a panic buy after failing to sign Soviets Alexei Mikhailichenko and Oleg Protasov, but Barros disarmed the critics with 12 League goals in his first Italian season.

Shortly after helping "Juve" lift the 1990 UEFA and Italian Cups, Barros were sold to Monaco, but he says: "Even if a foreigner leaves Italian football, it does not mean that his career is over. Monaco are a marvellous club and I feel that I have developed into a better player during the past two years with them.

"French soccer has been very good to me."

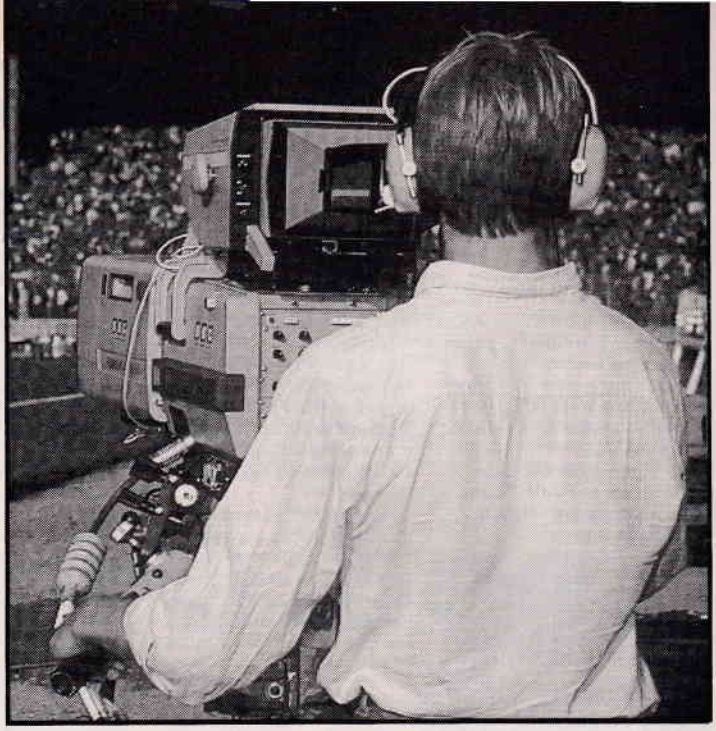


NICK BIDWELL



In focus . . . TV cameras (right) can now be found at every Premier League match, but you will have to pay to see the pictures live.

In view . . . live Italian football (below), with all its artists and artistry, can be seen for nothing on Channel 4 this season.



POTATO BLIGHT

There's far too much on TV

JUST how much televised soccer can anybody take, however committed a couch potato they be? We now have an excess of it; and then some.

Paying £304 million for the rights of the Greed Is Good, alias the Premier, League was a good move for Alan Sugar of Spurs, who manufactures satellite dishes, and a great gamble for Rupert Murdoch, whose Sky company had swallowed BSB.

Murdoch's evident hope was that fans would flock to buy dishes, take out subscriptions, and bring BSkyB into profit. The early portents were not too good. Fewer than a million viewers were said to have watched on the opening Sunday. On the Monday, some 700,000 watched Manchester City draw with QPR; mere chicken feed by comparison with the numbers who watch even a middle-of-the-road programme on terrestrial TV. But again, these were early days.

As we all know, the Big Seven Premier (or GIG) League clubs were not a bit keen on the BSkyB deal. The Big Seven would like to have stayed with ITV, who were caught napping; as, later, were BSkyB, when they foolishly allowed Italian football to slip away from them, and showed their concern with their shrill attacks on Channel 4, who nabbed it.

The Big Seven were able, in the past, to call the tune. ITV, so far as possible, went for the main matches between the leading clubs, which made sense.

But the top-heavy, 22-club Premier League has been obliged willy nilly to become more democratic. The Wimbledons, Oldhams and Coventrys now have their day; or evening.

The Big Seven showed their contempt and disregard for the rest by endeavouring to do a deal with the company manufacturing those revolving track-side advertisements, even though there appeared to be a prior agreement for the whole League with another, British, company.

Meanwhile, somewhat naively, BSkyB had joined forces with the BBC to do the deal with the GIG League. This meant creating fierce and potentially disastrous competition for their own BSkyB programmes. For Match of The Day thus returned; and with a most comprehensive service, giving not only excerpts on Saturday night from two games, but also goals and action from all the others.

This, plus the Italian football Chrysalis put on Channel 4, is quite enough for me. BSkyB have the supposed advantage of showing live games, but that has always been a two-edged sword.

My friend and colleague Paul Gardner has reported an amusing conversation with an official of the Bohemians club of Prague, who sent a youth team to last summer's Aberyswyth tournament. Yes, he said, the Czechs did watch English football on TV, but only the highlights. They couldn't be bothered with the whole 90-minute grind.

BSkyB have to hope and pray each game will be good. Remember that they cannot be seen unless you fork out for a dish, and even then you'd have to pay a subscription.

Endearingly naive, Rick Parry, the much-harried chief executive of the GIG League, blurted out after the deal was done that Rupert Murdoch had told him his organisation sold 40 million papers a week. The implication of this seemed plain enough, and pretty disturbing. But Mr Parry reassured us that Mr Murdoch was just trying to establish his "credibility."

I am sure it is pure coincidence that while David Lacey of *The Guardian*, a man who can always make me laugh speaks of subjecting Andy Gray's "Glasweign boom" to the new mute button, a Murdochian writer speaks of "the vibrant Andy Gray." The same correspondent agreeably calls Italian football "wop football."

Which of course can have nothing to do with the fact that BSkyB, who did such a fine job of presenting it last season, will be presenting it no more.

If, of a Sunday, it becomes a choice between paying for a dish plus a subscription each month to watch run-of-the-mill GIG League soccer, stretched to screaming point, or to watch some of the best players in the world without having to pay a penny extra, what would you do, chums?

"Massive overkill" was the phrase QPR's manager, Gerry Francis, used, the week before his club were forced to play a live TV GIG match at Maine Road.

The horrific prospect of the Football League screening their own games live on Sunday means that our pathetically ill-led game could be dicing with death. TV, as I have said time and again, is nobody's friend, and certainly not football's.

The GIG BSkyB deal is bad for football, bad for football journalism, and in the last analysis probably not even good for TV. For satellite TV, anyway.

The splendid snob

ON the subject of television, or at least of television figures, John Motson recently hailed the late Sir Stanley Rous as a hero of his in the Saturday *Independent Magazine*.

The following week, a reader wrote to say how kindly Rous treated him when he was working in Chile, and England played in Santiago, in 1953 and the 1962 World Cup. Rous generously provided him with tickets.

For me, Rous was far and away the best FA secretary there has been, and the best president of FIFA. I have recounted in these pages before the remark made to me in Broadcasting House, the night Denis Follows succeeded Rous at the FA: "The secretary is the servant of the association, and we all know what happened; the servant became the master." And just as well, say I.

Rous was a splendid, honest administrator with a fine grasp of the laws of the game; which after all he drafted so clearly and well.

But John Motson seems to have known Rous chiefly in the days of his retirement, when he became an altogether more benign figure than the alarming autocrat one saw behind his desk at Lancaster Gate, huge white cuffs covering the sleeves of his black jacket.

I was in Chile for that '62 World Cup, and have various memories. "Stanley Rous was up here at Coya yesterday," said Gerry Hitchens, then an England centre-forward, speaking in the team's training camp. "Said, Morning, Bobby!" Hitchens, being blond, had been confused by Sir Stanley with . . . Bobby Charlton.

One of Rous's friends, a Mr Chalwyn, a sergeant major figure, had been seen training with the England players in Gothenburg, a World Cup earlier. Rous, it appeared, had been his guest in Australia; he was a wealthy and successful businessman. Chalwyn trained at times with the team, stayed with the team; and even took part in the practice matches!

The truth was that Rous was an autocrat and a snob, slightly embarrassed by the fact that his rise and rise from modest origins in Suffolk was thanks to the exertions of bare-kneed men running around muddy fields.

Walter Winterbottom was very much Rous's favourite and, had Rous had his way, would have become his successor as FA secretary.

I wish it had happened. Rous, as we know, made an admirable president of FIFA, only alas to be pushed out by the ineffable Havelange with African help, in Frankfurt 12 years later. We all know, too, what kind of a president Havelange has been.

At president, it looks as if Heavylunge, as he was so memorably nicknamed in Mexico, will be with us from beyond the grave. All those encouraging hints at retiring have remained just that. No more than straws in the wind, a glint of hope in our eyes.

In the picture . . . Robins has gone from obscurity to fame in a matter of weeks.

An expensive lesson

YOU could hardly write a script as telling and ironic as that suggested by the first few matches of the GIG League.

Mark Robins, the stone that the builder rejected, the prophet without honour in his own country, sold by Manchester United, just in time to inspire Norwich's victory 4-2 at Arsenal, where he scored twice. Dion Dublin, who cost £200,000 more from Cambridge, powerless to stop Manchester United from losing their first two games — and failing to win the third.

Robins's goals were largely responsible for taking United to Wembley in 1991. Last season, as he put it, he was rotting in the reserves. This despite Alex Ferguson's frequent declarations of belief in him. Their loss has been Norwich's gain.

An expensive lesson for Ferguson and United.

Mia's seven-goal miss

THE nasty, squalid, sordid splitting up of Woody Allen and Mia Farrow evoked happier memories of Mia; and the joke that never quite was. How I wish it had been.

Some years ago, I was sent to the Bordeaux region, to translate Mia Farrow's diaglogue in a French film directed by the renowned Claude Chabrol. One of his worst, as it transpired.

The cast also included Jean Paul Belmondo, famous for his sporing proclivities. At pauses during the shooting he would produce a yellow football, and a group of us, though not Mia or Chabrol, would play head tennis.

Mia was a delight; unaffected, charming, funny and quick-witted. She was being pursued at the time by a once-famous Hollywood director, Jean Negulescu, and the Italian film star, Raf Vallone, who wanted her to be in a film they were planning; though she wasn't keen.

A long time previously, I happened to know, Vallone had been a very good professional footballer, so good that once, as centre-forward for Torino, he'd knocked seven goals past the great Spanish keeper, Ricardo Zamora.

The idea was that when he turned up in the village — after I had gone — Mia would greet him with "Things have changed a bit since you put those seven by Zamora." Followed, no doubt, by Collapse of Stout Party, or its equivalent.

How could such a young, delicate Hollywood film star know anything so abstruse and remote?

The next time I met her, in London, where she was appearing in a play, I asked her how the joke had gone. Alas, she'd forgotten all about it when she met him.

TREVOR BROOKING

SIGNIFICANT changes have taken place to soccer's television coverage in recent years.

Naturally my own involvement with the BBC could suggest a biased assessment, but as a regular viewer as well I realise that nowadays it is almost impossible to watch everything on offer.

In days gone by the BBC and ITV used to work together to negotiate the deal with the Football League. A number of clubs were unhappy because they felt this situation was too cosy and allowed television to pay a much lower figure than the product deserved.

This grievance even led some chairmen to force a confrontation which eventually led to football being off the screens for a number of months.

This total absence from the watching public undoubtedly had the adverse effect. Without the affinity to players through regular action there was a grave danger that interest in our national game could take a downturn.

It meant clubs finally having to accept a much reduced offer than that which they had rejected several months earlier!

Clubs then had to wait patiently for the growth of satellite television stations before once again they saw the opportunity to increase the revenue from broadcasting.

Significant

This caused ITV to abandon their partnership with the BBC and when a new deal was due in 1988 they went for an exclusive agreement to show League and League Cup football.

With the BBC unable to find sufficient funds, they understandably joined forces with one of the new stations, BSB, and submitted their own bid.

After a flurry of last-minute discussions and counter offers ITV emerged triumphant with a four year agreement.

Meanwhile, the BBC and BSB gained significant compensation by winning a separate five-year deal with the Football Association to show the FA Cup, plus England matches.

Therefore, 1988 did see a change in the pattern of football coverage. The BBC couldn't sustain their old Saturday night slot for Match of the Day, except when it was a weekend of FA Cup football. Grandstand also felt it couldn't carry on with Football Focus on a Saturday lunchtime and so left rivals Saint and Greavsie with an unchallenged position during that time.

On the other hand, ITV concentrated very much on live League matches and were often criticised for not offering a better edited highlights programme from all the action they had available.

The other major complaint was that they favoured the major clubs when selecting the live games, and although they argued it was what the advertisers demanded, it was fairly obvious certain clubs were assured plenty of exposure.

During all this time satellite television made slower progress than anticipated, but when BSB and Sky joined forces they extended their programmes, and made a favourable impression when they began showing top games from the outstanding Italian League.

So this summer dawned with the crucial deadline for the launching of the new Premier League run by the Football Association, and alongside that a new exclusive television deal available to the highest bidder.

Once again the discussions were shrouded with intrigue and when the final outcome was announced it unleashed a bitter exchange of words between ITV and the victorious BSB satellite channel.

The success of Sky was only achieved with the help of the BBC partnership because it was their involvement, rather than their money, which retained the major channel outlet which the new League had to have to keep club sponsors happy. The new deal, for the BBC, has meant the welcome return of a 60-minute Match of the Day on Saturday night, and Football Focus on Grandstand, as before at 12.35.

The evening programme has highlights from two main matches, clips from a third, and more important than anything,the goals from all the remaining Premier League matches.

It's a great package for any supporter to sample, although I feel it should be given a regular time slot of 10 o'clock or just after, rather than the current fluctuations which sometimes delay its appearance until as late as 11 o'clock.

On Wednesday evenings Sportsnight also are showing highlights of any midweek Premier fixtures, and so apart from any live games the BBC have gained an exceptional product for their relatively small financial input.

Sky understandably insisted on exclusive live matches following their substantial outlay, and selected Sunday afternoon and Monday evenings for their regular broadcasts.

I am surprised at the actual length of programmes for match days. A two o'clock opening for a four o'clock kick-off is far too long, and then to carry it through until seven o'clock is again dragging it out beyond the reasonable time necessary for any summing up.

Sufficient

The fireworks and heavy marketing have again appeared somewhat over the top, because I find innovations aren't always needed, as the viewer really wants to sit back and enjoy the match.

But to be fair, Sky have tried to offer the football fan a comprehensive weekly package, with a football discussion show on Tuesday, Andy Gray's tactical study on Thursday and the weekend preview on Friday.

The crucial question is whether sufficient numbers will take on the extra expense involved.

One concern must be the number of pubs, hotels and social clubs which now offer special screenings of these matches to entice the customers, and so nullify the need for individual dishes at home.

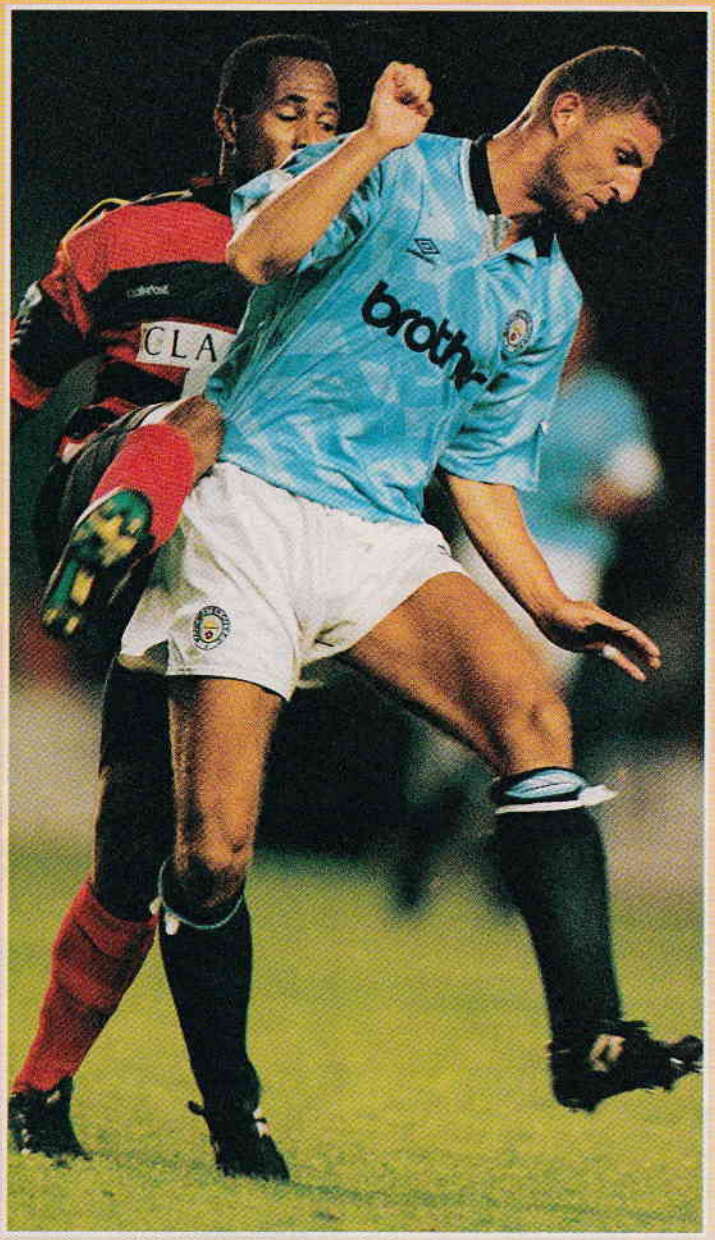
The alternative is what's now being screened on ITV and Channel 4. The different ITV regions have agreed separate deals with the Football League to show First Division games live on Sunday afternoons.

With sides such as Newcastle, Wolves and West Ham on show it is another discouragement for fans to dip into their pockets. Channel 4's live Italian games are the final distraction.

A shortage of televised football is an unlikely complaint, but the main concern surely must be about the quality on show.

That worry not only applies to the screen, because entrance costs for matches have soared. Gates this season will dip as money becomes even harder to find.

The new Premier League already needs reducing to the very maximum of 18 clubs. Otherwise I fear the entertainment and skill on display over 90 minutes will diminish, and when compared with that taking place in Italy, this might not seem quite the new, exciting era we had been told to expect.



Sky action . . . Michel Vonk of Manchester City (blue) and Les Ferdinand of QPR in the first FA Premier League match to be screened live by the satellite channel.

Problems in plenty, on and off the screen

Breadline club from Goldmine Gulch

THE paupers of European football, are based in the wealthiest corner of the continent.

The tiny Principality of Liechtenstein, which covers only 62 square miles, has a population of 25,000, is ruled by Prince Hans Adam II, and is so rich that its citizens do not pay income tax.

The country is squeezed between Switzerland and Austria (customs and currency are Swiss, the language German), has more banks per head than any other country, and has become a tax heaven.

Internationals tycoons (including the late Robert Maxwell), have stashed their money there, mostly in secret numbered accounts.

But the football clubs are impoverished and though they do not have professionals and therefore do not have to pay wages, they are heavily in debt.

After two unsuccessful applications by neighbouring clubs, Liechtenstein's top team, Vaduz were admitted this season into the European Cup-winners' Cup.

Vaduz play in a Swiss so-called Second League, equivalent to the Fourth Division; they have little commercial backing and owe about £80,000.

For the home and away matches in the preliminary round, against Ukrainian cup-holders Chernomorets Odessa, the players did not get any bonuses, and the three days spent on the trip for the return leg will be deducted from their holiday entitlement. The directors had to pay their own fares and other expenses.

Assembled

On the morning of the home tie the Vaduz players had to work normally in their various professions. After lunch they assembled in preparation for the kick-off at 5 p.m. The match had to be played in daylight because the national stadium in Vaduz does not have floodlights.

The club knew they had no chance of surviving even one round in a European tournament, but as president Werner Keicher explained: "We need the money, and not just from the gate — though the £12,000 will cover part of the costs of the trip to Odessa. We want to benefit from the new UEFA share-out. Their exclusive marketing of the European tournaments, television contracts and advertising will bring in £28 million, of which £22m will be paid out to the clubs.

Even as first round losers we will be entitled to £32,000. This, for us, is manna from heaven."

Vaduz play before a handful of spectators and although Prince Hans Adam patronises the local football outfits he does not contribute financially, as for example Prince Rainier does in Monaco.

The team manager, Hans Joachim Abel, a German from Fortuna Dusseldorf, said before the first leg against Odessa: "If we lose by less than five goals it will be a success."

His team reached the borderline — beaten 5-0.

The club faced unexpected selection problems because some of their best players are Swiss and count as foreigners. They include Christian Stober, top scorer last season with 20 goals.

For the return leg in Odessa, Vaduz chartered a plane which cost £20,000, and took 35 supporters with them. Plus their own chef, bakery produce and fruit. Vaduz lost 7-1, but celebrated their goal as if it were the winner. There was no despondency as chairman Keicher explained: "We've enjoyed the experience immensely. It was good for our players and for the sporting image of Liechentstein just to have taken part. And of course it helped us to reduce our debts."

Despite being sponsored by a bank, FC Vaduz do not get enough financial support. The citizens of this quaint principality are too busy making money to concern themselves with football.

Condemned

So like the other clubs in the neighbourhood, Triesen, Balzers, Eschen and Schaan, they are condemned to leading a hand-to-mouth existence on a shoestring budget.

But they are already looking forward to next season and another venture into European football, although Vaduz has a population of only 5,000 and the national stadium holds twice as many, but with only 1,000 seats.

The Liechtenstein FA, founded in 1933, joined FIFA in 1974. Only seven clubs are officially registered with the FA, though 64 play football. There are 1,300 players in the Principality, but only 11 referees.

There is no national league, only a national cup tournament. That is why UEFA cannot nominate a Liechtenstein team for the Champions' Cup, only for the Cup-winners' competition.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

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THE KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY

Maradona . . . the little boy who never grew up

WHEN IS a contract not a contract? Answer: When FIFA say so.

What can one think of the world governing body's interference in the case of Diego Maradona? Here was a perfectly simple situation: one particular footballer had freely entered into a contract which tied him to Napoli until the end of June next year.

Nobody held a gun at his head. Indeed, when the contract was negotiated it was the club who were under pressure, fearing the loss of the greatest asset in their history.

Then Maradona's self-discipline and respect for the game, the club and his team-mates began to fall apart. He started skipping training. He decided which matches he wished to play in. He ignored the club's travel instructions and chartered planes to fly to matches when it suited him.

I do not believe, for one minute — perish the thought, indeed! — that Maradona slipped the leash because back in the autumn of 1990 he was already seeking ways and means of arranging his freedom.

Those close to him at Napoli have whispered that his judgment may have been warped — to put it diplomatically — by side-effects from the cortisone treatments necessary to hold his limbs together under ferocious pressure.

Maradona was a street urchin who never grew up. By the mid-1980s he was a millionaire sportsman, but he did not rise to the status. He remained the mischievous wide boy; the scamp, or worse, who saw nothing wrong in celebrating the most outrageous of goals and even gloried in blasphemous association with the "Hand of God."

This was the boy whose tears in World Cup Final defeat expressed not disappointment as much as rage against anyone who might have snatched the most valuable of toys out of his grasp.

FIFA president Joao Havelange was accused of presiding over a vast conspiracy against Maradona and Argentina. Last year, when FIFA tried to prevent Maradona from lining up in a charity match, he poured further scorn on Havelange, assuring us that "nobody in Argentina will cry for Havelange when he is dead."

Maradona revelled in his rise to fame and fortune. But he has proved sadly unable to cope with the flip side. He is George Best to the power of one thousand. A great talent abused temperamentally and then abused, latterly, by drugs.
A sad, sad story.

FIFA have taken pity on him. Havelange appears to have swallowed all the insults. Why? Is it because FIFA feel they need Maradona's notoriety to enhance promotion of the 1994 World Cup finals within the United States?

But, to play for Argentina in US '94, Maradona must first be playing club football. To that initial end, FIFA put pressure on the Italian federation to order Napoli to negotiate Maradona's sale a year early.

Napoli refused point-blank. Two reasons. President Corrado Ferlaino recognises a good investment and holding Maradona as long as possible puts the price up, not down. Secondly, Napoli hold a perfectly legal contract.

Maradona, or his Spanish admirers, were perfectly entitled to offer to buy it out: but Napoli were perfectly entitled to turn them all down.

FIFA should have been supporting Napoli and the contract system. The more exceptions Maradona incurs, the more exceptions he will expect.

Spoil the child, ruin the man.

Serie A success for C4

CHANNEL 4 recorded almost three million viewers for their opening sortie into live Italian football — the first-day match between Des Walker's Sampdoria and a Gazza-less Lazio.

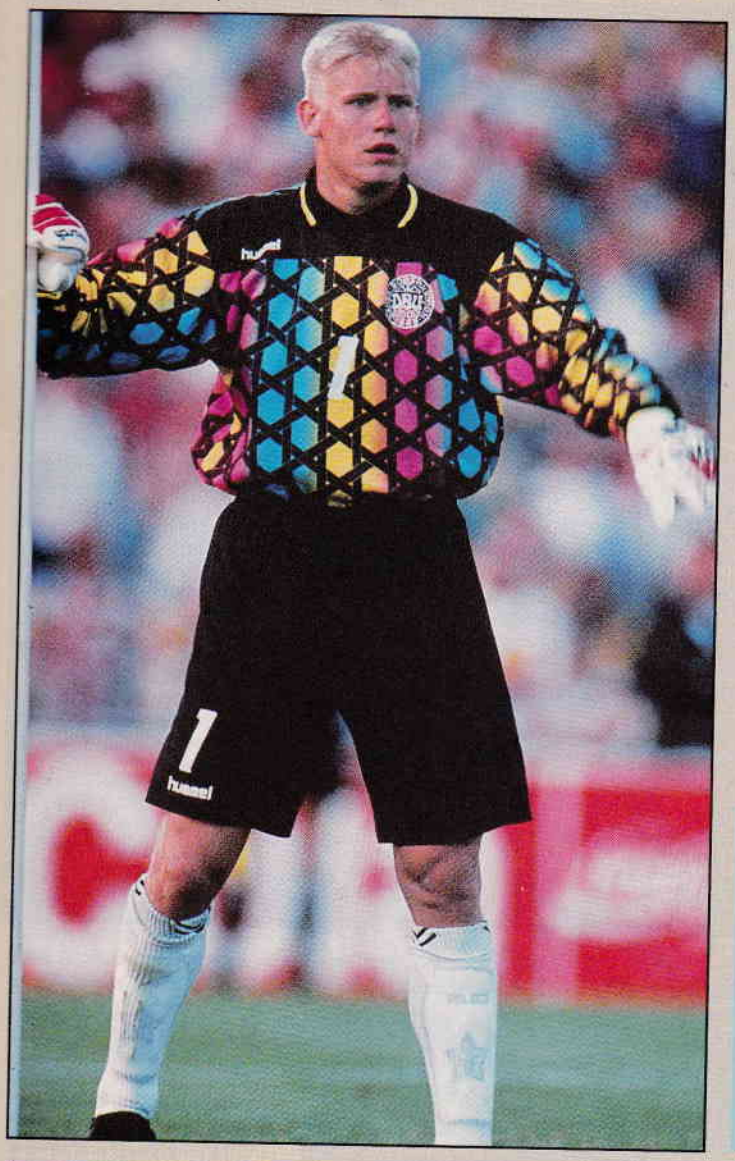
That was the highest audience any Channel 4 sports programme had ever achieved and vindicated supremo Michael Grade's decision to take Calcio on board.

The figure looks even better contrasted with the below-one-million returns from Sky's "Whole New Ball Game" with the FA Premier League. Obviously, the figures will be adjusted over the next few months. As the aggressive Sky advertising campaign garners more subscribers, their figures are bound to creep upwards.

As for Channel 4, one hopes that they will resist the temptation — having no doubt paid a bundle to get him on board — to overkill on Paul Gascoigne.

Fans who want to watch Italian football switch on to see precisely that. The Further Adventures of Paul Gascoigne, Superstar, is only a sideshow. Nothing more.

To pretend otherwise would be a mistake.



Schmeichel's up and down night

PETER SCHMEICHEL has been voted just what Manchester United fans have been claiming ever since his arrival from Brondby of Denmark last year: that he is the Best Goalkeeper in the World.

That accolade has been bestowed on him by the German-based international statisticians federation. Holland veteran Hans Van Breukelen and Spain's Andoni Zubizarreta were second and third.

Schmeichel was delighted with the award, presented to him before kick-off at Denmark's Copenhagen friendly against their European Final victims, Germany.

That match also brought Schmeichel back down to earth with a bump.

In the closing minutes, with the score 1-1, Germany's Stefan Effenberg shot against Schmeichel's right-hand post.

Schmeichel dived too late, the ball ricocheted back against his shoulder and into the net for Germany's winner.

Even United manager Alex Ferguson, not noted as the game's greatest humorist, is reported to have seen the funny side of that.

But then Schmeichel wasn't playing for United at the time.

Football War II

IN 1969 Honduras and El Salvador launched themselves upon the three-day "Football War" in the wake of a contentious World Cup qualifier between the nations.

The match served only to inflame long-standing passions over an old border dispute. Now, finally, that dispute has been resolved. Peace has been declared.

The old enemies have kissed and made up.

What better way to celebrate than with a football match? Duly, it took place, in San Salvador.

The hosts won 3-1 thanks to two controversial goals . . . and three players were sent off!

Vegetable knives out for Taylor

DID Graham Taylor really deserve the pounding given him by the media after England's 1-0 defeat by Spain in Santander?

Hardly. England's display and the result were both disappointments. Spain had a new manager who had picked his squad "blind", his players had only one league match in their legs and were reluctant to risk injury ahead of European competition. The last thing they wanted, all in all, was to face England's all-action approach in a friendly.

Instead, as Michel told me later, Spain could not believe their luck. No English tigers standing on their toes; only English gentlemen prepared to concede Spain's midfielders all the time in the world to indulge their skill and perception.

Spain should have been three goals up at half-time.

Taylor was duly harvested in the press the next day. The most tasteless turnips, onions and carrots you could imagine.

He has a number of problems — or he might prefer to call them challenges.

The first is a dearth of players who can be considered talented at the highest levels. However you juggle England's potential, you always come back to the same 15 or 16 names.

Problem No 2 is expectation. The English public sets its sportsmen Very High Standards indeed.

Third, Taylor has enjoyed a longer media honeymoon than any other England manager. He achieved that by giving the press ample time over the past two years to discuss, argue and explain his stance. Now the media are making up for lost time.

Fourth, when senior players such as David Platt and Des Walker cannot produce the goods, what chance do the supporting cast have?

Fifth, what level of respect for England's manager is encouraged when clubs pull injured players out of the squad . . . only to play them in club matches BEFORE the international?

Arsenal's recycling of Ian Wright and Liverpool's selection of Rob Jones in between England squad selection and England match was a contemptuous insult for the manager.

With friends like that inside the game, what chance does Taylor stand with the press and public at large?

Leonel Alvarez is out because of a fractured fibula.

S. America

Contenders close up

BY KEITH **SMITH**

DEPORTIVO continue to lead the Colombian championship, despite a recent bout of patchy form that has allowed other contenders to draw closer.

Millonarios, Quindio (the current form team) and America Cali have overcome patchy starts of their own.

Nacional have yet to perform like defending champions, in part due to a constantly shifting line-up.

There also have been the odd distraction, like the one at Medellin airport when Rene Higuita punched a journalist in the face without warning. Quite why Higuita snapped at that moment is not clear, although the authorities deemed that no follow-up action was necessary.

Nacional have transferred international midfielder Ricardo Perez to Envigado. Perez, capped 14 times by Colombia, scored on his debut and was then sent off — his third dismissal in six games this year.

America Cali have signed the Argentine defender Nestor Fabbri from Racing Club, but Leonel Alvarez has a fractured fibula and is unlikely to play again this year.

Three of Colombia's experienced foreigners have departed. Peruvian Julio Cesar Uribe was unable to settle at his latest club, Medellin, and left for Lima.

Uruguayan goalkeeper Fernando Alves had family problems, but looks likely to sign with a club in Argentina.

Finally Oscar Juarez has left Deportivo following a disagreement with coach Miguel Company. Juarez, an Argentine, was a mainstay with Millonarios between 1986 and 1991, and won two championship medals.

Once Phillips have another new coach — the Victor Luna era lasted only two games. Luna is back in charge of the reserves while the club have hired Oscar Restrepo, latterly Colombia's coach at the youth championships and previously an assistant at Pereira.

CONMEBOL

Cup that does not cheer

THE new CONMEBOL Cup — similar to the UEFA Cup — has been a flop so far. The South American Soccer Federation (CONMEBOL) created the competition for leading clubs not among the country's top two qualifying for the Libertadores Cup.

Even before the tournament began one of the leading clubs involved — Argentina's Boca Juniors — withdrew because they felt there was not enough money in it for the players to waste their energy.

Their replacement, Deportivo Espanol, who had never been in an international competition, are taking it more seriously, as are other clubs in a similar position. But the big clubs who qualified have shown a general lack of interest.

Uruguay's Penarol, out of the honours lately, have fielded their reserve team in all matches so far. They still got through the first round against compatriots Danubio, and drew their second-round home leg against Argentina's Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata.

The event has not been a financial boon, with barely 1,000 spectators at some matches — not even covering the cost of the floodlights — and the average not going above 3,000 per game. Players with bonuses tied to gate receipts are naturally unhappy.

A spokesman for CONMEBOL dismissed all this by saying that these are the usual teething troubles experienced by new competitions, and pointed to the similar early years of the Libertadores Cup.

ERIC **WEIL**

COSTA RICA

COSTA RICAN fans are severely criticising their officials over the improvisation and poor preparation for the 1994 World Cup qualifying matches — specially after the team were beaten 1-0 by Panama in the away leg of the first round.

Earlier Costa Rica also had played very poorly in losing 2-1 away to Uruguay, and did not look at all like the team who caused upsets in the last World Cup.

The absence of players with clubs abroad is being felt, with no promising newcomers to take their places.

PERU

THE 16 First Division clubs can field four foreign players each this season. The imports include 27-year-old Nigerian Benjamin Nzeabor — the first African to play in Peru — who scored in his excellent debut with Deportes Municipal.

After 17 of 30 games Universitario de Deportes led defending champions Sporting Cristal by two points.

ERIC **WEIL**

MEXICO

Hugo's back and on the target

THE season began with a sensation — the return of international striker Hugo Sanchez, after 11 seasons in Spain, to join America.

He soon made his presence felt, scoring the winner in a 1-0 victory over Universidad de Tamaulipas on the opening day when champ-ions Leon went down 1-0 to newly-promoted Pachuca.

Sanchez had made his debut for America a few days earlier, in the CONCACAF Club Champions' Cup against San Francisco Bay Blackhawks. America won 4-2 on aggregate and Sanchez scored all four goals.

Native coaches outnumber newcomers in Mexico's First Division, but only just — by 11 to nine.

The 11 are Jesus Bracamontes (Guadalajara), Victor Manuel Vucetich (Leon), Miguel Mejia Barton (Monterrey), Antonio Carbajal (Morelia), Benjamin Fal (Pachuca), Manuel Lapuente (Puebla), Tomas Boy (Queretaro), Francisco Avilan (Togres UNL), Alberto Guerra (Tecos de UAG), Jose Vantolra (Toluca), and Jorge Davalos (Universitario de Guadalajara).

There are four coaches from Argentina — Mario Alberto Bielsa, who has left Newell's Old Boys to take over at Atlas of Guadalajara, Ricardo Lavolpe (Atlante), Pedro Dellacha (Santos Laguna) and Roberto Saporiti (Necaxa).

The three Uruguyans are Carlos Miloc at Veracruz, Hector Eugui of Correcaminos UAT, and newcomer Nelson Acosta at Cruz Azul.

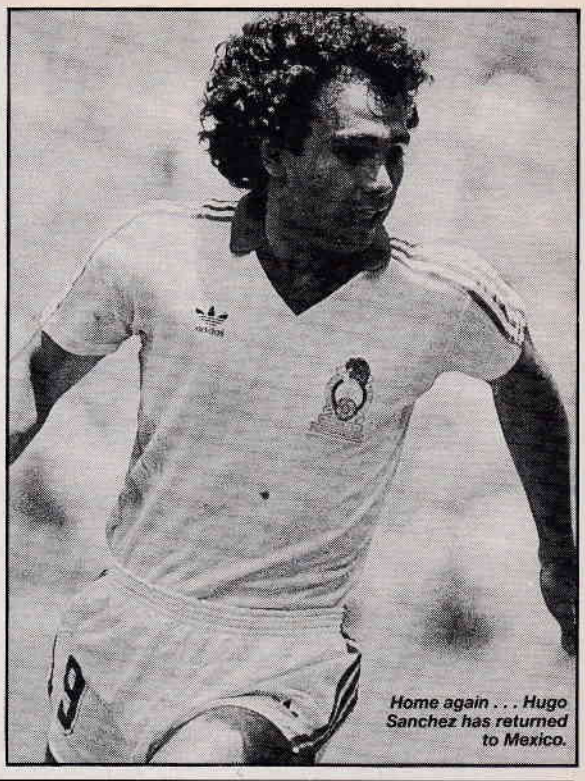
There are two Brazilians — Ricardo Ferretti, better known as Tuca, with Pumas UNAM, and Paulo Roberto Falcao, in his second season with America.

The 76 foreign-born players registered in Mexico include 25 from Brazil and 23 from Argentine.

Other nations represented include Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Uruguay, Honduras, Ghana, Panama and the United States, in the shape of defender Clee Koiman, now with Cruz Azul after spending last season with the Cobras of Ciudad Juarez.

He could be joined in the next couple of years by more Americans, because the new North American Trade Agreement has opened the way for more sport promotion, with the possibility of a team or two from the States playing in Mexico.

CARLOS **RAMIREZ**



Home again . . . Hugo Sanchez has returned to Mexico.

PARAGUAY

OLIMPIA — oldest club in Paraguay, at 90 — and Sportivo Luqueno shared top place in the first round of the First Division.

They play off for bonus points to take into the final round (one to the winner, 0.75 to the second). The top four who enter the final round also include Atletico Colegiales with a 0.50 bonus and Nacional with 0.25.

Cerro Porteno, in a slump since being knocked out of the Libertadores Cup earlier this year, finally managed to win their first match as the first round ended.

During their 10-match winless run coach Paulo Carpegiano resigned, to be replaced by another Brazilian, Valdir Espinosa.

Nacional, who finished fourth in the first round and are coached by former international goalkeeper Ever Almeida, were reinforced by Rafael Bobadilla from Millonarios of Colombia.

As usually happens, no sooner had Paraguay's moderately successful Olympic team returned from Barcelona than most of the squad moved abroad — seven to Argentina.

Defender Carlos Gamarra went to Independiente, defender Andres Duarte and midfielder Hector Sosa to San Lorenzo, Gustavo Neffa to Boca Juniors, and Arsenio Benitez, Julio Yegros and Guido Alvarenga to Mandiyu.

Hugo Sosa joined Colombia's America, and goalkeeper Ruben Ruiz Diaz and striker Francisco Ferreira went to Mexico — Monterrey and Queretaro respectively.

ARGENTINA

Clubs spend more in non-stop season

THE 1992-93 season began in Argentina only a week after the curtain finally came down on 1991-92 . . . something which has never happened before.

Newell's Old Boys, who lost the three-match play-off against River Plate between the winners of the two rounds of the national championship, played Velez Sarsfield in the final play-off for a second Libertadores Cup place a week before the new season started.

They won 1-0, so they will be in the cup for the second year running.

San Martin of Tucuman had won their play-off for a second promotion place (with already promoted Lanus) seven days earlier. As a result, Newell's, Velez and San Martin were given an extra three weeks rest and had not started action in the new season at press time.

In spite of the short close season it was a buyer's market rather than a seller's as in recent years, which may show the better economic situation in Argentina. Top clubs spent close on 10 million dollars on new players — chicken feed when compared with Italy but a lot for Argentina.

One must also take into account that the majority of moves in Argentina are loans or the result of a club buying half or less of a player's contract from an agent.

Independiente, a club who usually deal little in transfers, really went to town this year and spent 2.8 million dollars, with international Cagna the most expensive at 700,000 dollars.

Boca Juniors, usually the biggest buyers, spent 2.2 million dollars, a million of it on an uncapped midfielder Luis Carranza. He was one of the most promising finds of last season with Racing Club.

Another 750,000 dollars went on Parguayan international Gustavo Neffa from Union de Santa Fe.

River Plate's most significant capture is Uruguayan Ruben "Polillita" Da Silva, back from Logrones in Spain. He was one of the key men in River Plate's 1989-90 title-winning season.

This season's format is unchanged, with an opening and a closing championship and all 20 teams playing the others once in each, thus producing two champions. The winner of each round qualifies for the 1994 Libertadores Cup unless the same club win both, in which case the runners-up play off for the second place.

So there will be no play-off for Libertadores Cup places as in recent years, due to lack of time in view of next year's international programme — the South American Championship in Ecuador followed by World Cup qualifying matches.

Fixtures

Sunday, 4 October
Argentinos Juniors v Boca Juniors
San Lorenzo v Rosario Central
Lanus v Estudiantes
Talleres v Independiente
Mandiyu v Espanol
Platense v San Martin
Racing Club v Belgrano
Gimnasia v Velez Sarsfield
Newell's v Huracan
River Plate v FC Oeste

Saturday, 10 October
Boca Juniors v River Plate
FC Oeste v Newell's
Huracan v Gimnasia
Velez Sarsfield v Racing Club
Belgrano v Platense
San Martin v Mandiyu
Espanol v Talleres
Independiente v Lanus
Estudiantes v San Lorenzo
Rosario Central v Argentinos Juniors

Sunday, 25 October
Boca Juniors v Rosario Central
Argentinos Juniors v Estudiantes
San Lorenzo v Independiente
Lanus v Espanol
Talleres v San Martin
Mandiyu v Belgrano
Platense v Velez Sarsfield
Racing Club v Huracan
Gimnasia v FC Oeste
Newell's v River Plate

Sunday, 1 November
Newell's v Boca Juniors
River Plate v Gimnasia
FC Oeste v Racing Club
Huracan v Platense
Velez Sarsfield v Mandiyu
Belgrano v Talleres
San Martin v Lanus
Espanol v San Lorenzo
Independiente v Argentinos Juniors
Estudiantes v Rosario Central

Sunday, 8 November
Boca Juniors v Estudiantes
Rosario Central v Independiente
Argentinos Juniors v Espanol
San Lorenzo v San Martin
Lanus v Belgrano
Talleres v Velez Sarsfield
Mandiyu v Huracan
Platense v FC Oeste
Racing Club v River Plate
Gimnasia v Newell's

Sunday, 15 November
Gimnasia v Boca Juniors
Newell's v Racing Club
River Plate v Platense
FC Oeste v Mandiyu
Huracan v Talleres
Velez Sarsfield v Lanus
Belgrano v San Lorenzo
San Martin v Argentinos Juniors
Espanol v Rosario Central
Independiente v Estudiantes

Sunday, 6 December
Boca Juniors v Espanol
Independiente v San Martin
Estudiantes v Belgrano
Rosario Central v Velez Sarsfield
Argentinos Juniors v Huracan
San Lorenzo v FC Oeste
Lanus v River Plate
Talleres v Newell's
Mandiyu v Gimnasia
Platense v Racing Club

Sunday, 13 December
Platense v Boca Juniors
Racing Club v Mandiyu
Gimnasia v Talleres
Newell's v Lanus
River Plate v San Lorenzo
FC Oeste v Argentinos Juniors
Huracan v Rosario Central
Velez Sarsfield v Estudiantes
Belgrano v Independiente
San Martin v Espanol

Sunday, 20 December
Boca Juniors v San Martin
Espanol v Belgrano
Independiente v Velez Sarsfield
Estudiantes v Huracan
Rosario Central v FC Oeste
Argentinos Juniors v River Plate
San Lorenzo v Newell's
Lanus v Gimnasia
Talleres v Racing Club
Mandiyu v Platense

ERIC **WEIL**

BRAZIL

BY BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

Clubs go for money and not for matches

BRAZIL'S leading clubs showed last month exactly what they thought of the country's State Championships.

With the dreaded regional competitions getting under way, Vasco da Gama, Flamengo, Sao Paulo, Palmeiras, Corinthians, Santos, Internacional and even Madureira simply packed their bags and went off to play in more lucrative friendlies abroad.

While Botafogo and Bangu opened the Rio de Janeiro championship in front of a 2,000 crowd, Flamengo were playing one of a series of three games against European club sides in Spain, and Vasco da Gama were involved in a quadrangular tournament in the same country.

Corinthians, Santos and Internacional all made for Japan, the land of the rising appearance fee, while Palmeiras were in Italy playing Parma in a match organised by Parmalat, who sponsor both clubs.

Bump

Sao Paulo also made for Spain, where they thrashed European champions Barcelona 4-1 in a dress rehearsal for December's confrontation in Tokyo. But Sao Paulo came down to earth with a bump — a drab 0-0 draw with Guarani in the Sao Paulo championship on a blustery night in Campinas, in front of just 8,000 fans.

The following week they went off to Spain again for more friendlies.

The organisers of the state championships were left to fiddle around with their fixture lists, thrown into chaos with the absence of the leading clubs.

The clubs, however, were more concerned with financial survival. Excursions and sales of players to foreign clubs are the main sources of income for Brazil's top clubs nowadays. Anywhere will do as long as the fees are sufficiently high. Vasco went to Gabon last year, Flamengo were in South Africa in July.

The problem for the leading clubs is that the state championships, which take up the last five months of the year, are synonymous with throwing vast amounts of money out of the window.

For the best part of these competitions, the Sao Paulos and Flamengos find themselves playing teams with no right to be on the same field, whose favourite tactic is to provide a dreadful pitch in the hope of pulling the big boys down to their level.

In Rio, Americano are one of the most notorious in this respect. The president of the Rio Federation, Eduardo Viana, is an Americano supporter.

In the Sao Paulo championship, the qualifying round involves each team playing no less than 26 matches, crammed into four months (see inset). In Rio, the qualifying phase involves 22 matches.

The other championships do not even bear thinking about. Suffice it to say that in Minas Gerais, the local federation have chucked 24 teams into a competition and that, as sure as grass is green, when the final comes around Atletico Mineiro and Cruzeiro will be there. The rest are wasting their time and everyone else's.

There is simply too much football for even the most fanatical supporter to bear, and most of it is of a pitiful quality.

Attendances speak for themselves. Sao Paulo beat Portuguesa 2-1 in front of 7,000 fans at the 150,000-capacity Morumbi. Fluminense opened in Rio before 1,193 people against America/Tres Rios.

Yet the directors stubbornly refuse to extend the far more profitable Brazilian championship, crammed into just over four months.

As one commentator pointed out: "To extend these competitions for five months is a joke, and one of very bad taste. The Rio championship should be over and done in two or three months, and that's being generous. That would open the way for a Brazilian championship with games just at the weekends, decided on points — how wonderful that would be. But it's so difficult to do the obvious."

Two clubs were having a bumpy ride as the state championships got under way — Palmeiras and Botafogo.

The notorious organised supporters group, the Mancha Verde (green stain), ran a particularly nasty campaign to get rid of Palmeiras coach Nelsinho after the club got off to a stuttering start.

Nelsinho had already upset supporters by letting midfielder Edu Maragnon (a former Torino player) be sold to Santos. When the results went against Palmeiras, the supporters charmingly threatened to throw a bomb at the manager's house.

The breaking point for Nelsinho came when the team lost 1-0 to Bragantino and he left the pitch escorted by two armed police . Five days later he resigned.

Back

His departure was good news for four Palmeiras players, including ex-Atalanta striker Evair, who were allowed back into the team for the first time since March, when Nelsinho had dropped them following four successive defeats.

At the time of writing, Sao Paulo (who else?) led the Green Group, one point ahead of Corinthians, where Neto was once again at his best, shrugging off the disappointment of being ignored by Brazil and scoring some typically spectacular goals. Palmeiras were 10th after a run of seven wins without a game.

In Rio, it was Botafogo's time for a crisis. Emil Pinheiro, the millionaire president who keeps the club going out of his own pocket, mysteriously disappeared for a few days before re-appearing and claiming that everything would carry on as normal.

Manager Gil was fired after the disastrous showing in the final of the Brazilian championship against Flamengo, Renato was loaned to Cruzeiro after the barbecue incident, Valdeir was sold to Bordeaux and most of the other players were busy re-negotiating contracts so that Botafogo faced Bangu with mainly reserve players.

Edinho, the 1986 World Cup player who managed Fluminense last year, was brought in to try to sort out the mess.

Elsewhere the story was of clubs trying to replace players inevitably sold abroad. Vasco lost striker Bebeto to La Coruna in Spain and manager Nelsinho to the Middle East; Palmeiras sold international striker Luis Henrique to Monaco; Bragantino sold Mauro Silva also to La Coruna.

Meanwhile, the Brazil Cup appeared to be on its last legs.

The competition is supposed to be for the winners of the previous year's state championships, plus the runners-up from the bigger states to bring the number up to 82 except that the winners of the biggest championships (Sao Paulo and Flamengo) simply declined to take part and gave up their places for someone else.

The marketing strategy hardly helped. The competition is sponsored by the Brazilian airline VASP (consequently teams taking part travel with that company) at a time when all the major Brazilian newspapers have been publishing reports about skimped aircraft maintenance, planes flying without radars, and interminable delays to flights.

Follow this . . . if you can

RULES for this year's Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo championships.

RIO DE JANEIRO

Vasco da Gama, Flamengo, Botafogo, Fluminense, Bangu, America/Rio de Janeiro, America/Tres Rios, Itaperuna, Volta Redonda, Madureira, Americano, Campo Grande.

In the first phase, the teams play each other once and the winner qualifies for the final stage. The bottom two drop down to the Second Division and are replaced by two promoted sides. In the second phase, the teams again play each other once and the winner qualifies for the final stage.

Ifs and buts: If the same team win the first and second phases, that team is the champion and no final is played. The team with most points over the two phases combined also qualify for the final stage which becomes a three-way affair. If that team is one of the two phase winners, then a two-way final is played.

SAO PAULO

Green Group: Sao Paulo, Palmeiras, Corinthians, Santos, Bragantino, Guarani, Internacional Limeira, Ituano, Santo Andre, Noroeste, Portuguesa, Botafogo, Riberao Preto, Juventus, Saocarlense.

Yellow Group: Mogi Mirim, Ponte Preta, Rio Branco, XV de Piracicaba, America/Sao Paulo, Novorizontino, Aracatuba, Uniao Sao Joao, Sao Jose, Ferroviaria, Olimpia, Marilia, XV de Jau, Catanduvense.

● The yellow group is a kind of Second Division without being a Second Division, as the top two teams get a place in the semi-final stage. The teams play twice against the teams in the SAME group.

The top six in the green and the top two in the yellow qualify for the semi-finals. Here, there are two groups of four.

Again, the teams play twice against the teams in the same group. The winners of each group meet in a two-leg final. All crammed into five months.

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Sign-on City

The golden grampus... legendary saviour of the city of Nagoya.

Lineker follows the 100,000 who helped to create a club

Nagoya Grampus Eight, back row (l to r): Shimamura, Tsuruta, Otohiko Kiyono, Marcio, Ohashi, Lineker, Garca, Fujikawa, Havenaar.
Front row (l to r): Asano, Pedro, Ogawa, Egawa, Sawairi, Nakanishi, Yonekura, Yoshida.

NAGOYA, with a population of 2,130,00, is the major city of the Tokai region at the industrial heart of Japan.

The city was widely favoured to host the 1988 Olympic Games, only to lose that honour to Seoul, but is bidding to be a host site for the 2002 World Cup. Nearby Toyota City is the home of the Toyota motor company, with the wealth of a medium-sized European economy.

Nagoya may seem remote from Europe, but Gary Lineker will not be out in the sticks when he arrives to take up his lucrative contract in the new J League next year.

The name Nagoya Grampus Eight comes from the legend of the killer whales (grampus) which saved the city from fire by spouting water from the sea. The golden grampus are still seen on the roof of Nagoya Castle, where they were placed by the first Tokugawa Shogun in 1609.

Grampus Eight are based on the Toyota club who played in the Japan Soccer League. They are, however, a separate company.

The key point about the new J League is that each team must represent a locality, not the sponsor companies. Toyota emphasise that the soccer team will not be used for Toyota publicity though Lineker may be.

Toyota, originally decided not to participate in the J League. Despite long involvement in football, including sponsorship of the Intercontinental Cup, the venture was considered too expensive and risky.

The company only changed that view after 100,000 local citizens signed a petition demanding a professional football team!

The result was that Toyota agreed to pay all the club's running expenses, excluding the players' salaries. The total bill to the motor company is estimated at over £4 million a year.

Besides Toyota, Nagoya Grampus Eight have been capitalised at over £1.5 million by a list of some 20 local companies , including the JR Tokai railway and Chubu Electric.

Their first manager is Ryuzo Hiraki, who played for Japan at the 1956 and 1964 Olympic Games. He was captain at the '64 games, and a coach of the bronze-medal team in Mexico in 1968. He now returns to the action after a decade of service as director of the Japan Football Association.

As head coach, Grampus have brought in Jorge Yonashiro, the veteran Yomiuri and Japan national team striker who managed Yomiuri from 1986 to 1990. The combination of Hiraki and Yonashiro brings together two of the most prominent figures in Japanese football.

The question then was how to make best use of the new rule that allows three foreigners on the pitch at the same time.

Toyota already had Jorgenyo, now 33, the former Brazil national team midfielder, who scored five and set up 12 of Toyota's 24 League goals last season. Also, as goalkeeper coach but anxious to return to the field, there is former Den Haag keeper Dido Havenaar.

Toyota's biggest problems last year were in defence, but the holes may have been plugged by the signing of 25-year-old Garca (Edison Rodrigues), who captained Gremio Maringa of Parana State last year.

Two young Brazilians, Pedro and Marcio, also have been brought over.

The Lineker-Jorgenyo combination could be lethal

Gary Lineker . . . the new hero of Nagoya, training with his team-mates (above left) and in action against Corinthians (above).

in any league. Lineker requires the inch-perfect service that is second nature to the Brazilian; Jorgenyo needs a striker with the speed, agility and footballing instinct to read his mind.

Jorgenyo was so much the best player in the Japan League last year that he often appeared to be out there on his own. Now he will have someone of similar skill.

Grampus were strongly attracted to Lineker on account of his clean image as well as his skill. Given the difficulties of adapting to such a foreign culture as Japan, the club undoubtedly made the right decision.

Lineker's equability will not only raise the image of the team, but also will help him in his relations with club officials.

Narumi Nishigaki, the director who handled the signing, says that they did not expect Lineker to agree when they faxed the first inquiry last year. The two-year contract, with a one-year option, is worth about £2,300,000.

Lineker also will line up next year with Japan national team midfielder Tetsuya Asano, and two of the most promising youngsters in Japanese football: Takafumi Ogura, joining the club straight out of high school but already famous nationwide, and top university striker Yasuyuki Moriyama.

Fourteen of the squad of 33 have joined from Toyota. The rest are mostly very young, as the club build for the future. Even with Lineker and Jorgenyo pushing up the figures, the average age of the squad is just 22.9.

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

CLUB FOCUS

NAGOYA Grampus EIGHT

Hiraki . . . experienced.

Garca . . . ideal stopper.

THE MANAGER

Ryuzo Hiraki.
Aged 59 (born 7.10.31).
One of Japan's most experienced football administrators. Former Japan international in defence and midfield, then manager of Furukawa and Japan youth team and coach of national team.

Dirk "Dido" HAVENAAR.
Goalkeeper. Aged 34 (born 26.9.26).
Former Den Haag keeper with playing experience at Mazda and Yomiuri in Japan. Goalkeeper coach for Toyota and Japan national team. Eager to return to regular action now that three foreigners are allowed. A fluent English speaker with wife and children in Japan.

Akiyoshi OHASI.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 29 (born 11.11.62).
Oldest Japanese player in the squad. Previously with Yamaha and Toyota. Quick off the line and covers the goal area well. First-choice Japanese keeper.

Yuji ITO
Goalkeeper.
Aged 27 (born 20.5.65)
Joined Grampus from Yanmar. Technically precise with fast reactions.

Tomoaki SANO
Goalkeeper.
Aged 24 (born 14.4.58).
Only three first-team games for Toyota, but full of promise.

GARCA (Edison Rodrigues)
Defender.
Aged 25 (born 13.5.67).
Captain of Gremio Maringa last year. Strong in the air, quick tackler, and looks like being the ideal stopper.

Selichi OGAWA.
Defender.
Aged 22 (born 21.7.70).
Overlaps on the left wing. A fierce hustler and accurate crosser, certain to be a key member. Joined from Toyota.

Shigemitsu EGAWA.
Defender ..
Aged 31 (born 31.1.66.)
Does on the right what Ogawa does on the left. Formerly with Honda and Toyota.

Naoki MORI.
Defender.
Aged 20 (born 5.3.72).
Former youth international. Strong in the air and at man-to-man play. Joined from Toyota.

Kazuhisa LIJIMA.
Defender.
Aged 22 (born 6.1.70).
Joined Grampus straight out of university. Member of Universiade and Olympic team.

Otohiko KIYONO.
Defender.
Aged 19 (born 23.4.73).
Determined youngster who holds the ball well and is always ready to join the attack.

Hisataka FUKIKAWA.
Defender.
Aged 28 (born 1.5.64).
Experienced sweeper. Former youth international and probable first-team regular. Joined from Toyota.

Toshiyuki KOSUGI.
Defender.
Aged 24 (born 29.6.68).
Fine positioning sense and quick to join the attack. Joined Grampus from university.

Tetsuya ASANO.
Midfield.
Aged 25 (born 23.2.67).
Current international with 12 caps. Remarkable rise to the national team after joining Toyota as a regular employee. Plays in the rear of midfield but also thunders in long shots.

JORGENYO
(Jorge Antonio Putinaiti).
Midfield.
Aged 33 (born 23.8.59).
Regular for Brazil from 1983 but missed the 1986 World Cup through injury. A chance-maker who rarely commits an unforced error. Previous clubs include Palmeiras, Corinthians, Fluminense, Gremio and Santos. Joined Grampus from Toyota.

Tetsuo NAKANISHI.
Midfield.
Aged 23 (born 8.9.69).
Joined Grampus straight out of university. Uses the ball intelligently.

Michihiro TSURUTA.
Midfield.
Aged 24 (born 4.1.68).
A sound defensive midfielder. Dribbles and passes well. Also joined from university.

Makoto YONEKURA.
Midfield.
Aged 21 (born 28.12.70).
Fast and highly effective central midfielder who looks certain to be a regular. Joined from Toyota.

PEDRO
(Pedro Angelo Suarez).
Midfield.
Aged 22 (born 11.5.70).
Fast with good strategic sense and passing. Previous teams include Cruzeiro, Atletico Paulista and XV de Jau.

Taro GOTO.
Midfield.
Aged 22 (born 24.12.69).
Member of Olympic team. Small but hard-running. Joined from university.

Gary LINEKER.
Forward.
Aged 31 (born 30.11.60).
Former Leicester, Everton, Barcelona and Spurs forward, second-highest scorer in England history. Winding down his career, but desperate to succeed in Japan.

Shigeo SAWAIRI.
Forward.
Aged 29 (born 8.5.63).
Seven caps. Toyota's star centre-forward with a fine shot.

Yasuyuki MORIYAMA.
Forward.
Aged 23 (born 1.5.69).
Joined Grampus straight out of university, but already capped for Japan. Approached by Penarol while at university. A very promising striker.

MARCIO.
Forward.
Aged 21 (born 30.7.71).
A goal-getter, especially strong in the air. Joined from Arasatuba of Sao Paulo State.

Takafumi OGURA.
Forward.
Aged 19 (born 6.7.73).
Youth international. Made his name with the Yokkaichi High School team who shared the championship in front of 60,000 fans in Tokyo in January. Could get an early chance in the full national team.

Kimihiko KIYONO.
Forward.
Aged 19 (born 23.4.73).
Twin brother of defender Otohiko. Junior youth international.

ASIAN CUP

BY MOHAMED **CHBARO**

BRAZILIAN Evaristo coached Qatar to a convincing victory in their group of the Asian Cup qualifying tournament.

Evaristo, formerly in charge of Iraq, handled a tiny squad to such good effect that they scored eight goals in their two games, beating Syria 4-2 and Oman 4-0.

Strikers Adel Khamis and Mahmoud Soufi, who helped Al Sadd to win the 1988 Asian Club Championship, were outstanding, and veteran goalkeeper Younes Ahmed showed great authority.

Syria beat Oman by the only goal in the remaining fixture.

The United Arab Emirates won the second group, beating Kuwait 3-2 and Bahrain 3-1.

As with Qatar, a foreign coach paid handsomely — in this case former Soviet Union team manager Valeri Lobanovski, who is working on a two-year contract.

Zoheir Bakhit scored the winner against Kuwait in injury time, then scored in the first minute of the game with Bahrain.

Kuwait beat Bahrain 2-0 in the other match.

The Asian Cup will be held in Japan later this month.

SAUDI ARABIA

PROFESSIONAL players are to be allowed into Saudi Arabian football for the first time, starting this season. Each club will be allowed three foreigners.

Soccer is growing in Saudi, with a Premier Division and a First Division each with 12 clubs, and crowds of up to 60,000 being drawn to the 14 modern grounds — including the King Fahd Stadium, where the new Intercontinental Champions Cup will be contested.

Al Shabab from Riyadh won the 1991-92 championship, beating Al Ittifaq in the final play-off match. Al Ittifaq made it 1-1 in injury time, but lost the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

The top club, Al Ahly, finished a point clear of Al Shabab, but lost in the play-offs to Al Ittifaq. Said Oweiran of Al Shabab was top scorer with 16 goals in 18 appearances.

SAUDI ARABIA

1991/92 FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ahly	22	13	5	4	30	16	31
Al Shabab	22	9	12	1	30	14	30
Al Ittifaq	22	10	8	4	28	16	28
Al Nasr	22	8	11	3	27	20	27
Al Ittihad	22	10	6	6	27	19	26
Al Qadsia	22	10	5	7	30	20	25
Al Hilal	22	7	9	6	27	20	23
Al Tai	22	6	8	8	23	30	20
Al Wehda	22	6	7	9	21	23	19
Al Riyadh	22	4	8	10	24	34	16
Al Nahda	22	2	6	14	13	40	10
Ouhod	22	1	7	14	25	53	9

Top scorers: Said Oweiran (Al Shabab) 16, Saadoun Hmoud (Al Ittifaq) 13, Hamza Saleh (Al Ahly) 12.
Relegated: Al Nahda and Ouhod
Promoted: Al Neejmeh and Al Raed
Championship Play-Offs: Al Ahly 0 v 2 Al Ittifaq, Al Shabab 3 v 2 Al Nasr, Al Ittifaq 0 v 0 Al Ahly, Al Nasr 0 v 0 Al Shabab.
Championship Final: Al Shabab 1 v 1 Al Ittifaq (after extra time). *Al Shabab won 4-3 on penalties.*

KUWAIT

GOALS were in short supply in the Kuwait League, won by Al Qadsia.

The 14 clubs are split into two sections, each playing 12 games. The "B" group's 42 matches produced 103 goals, but in the "A" section there were only 81.

Qadsia, top of the "A" League with 17 points, 20 goals for and only six against, beat Al Arabi from the other section by the only goal in the play-offs, then defeated Al Yarmouk 2-0 in the final.

Al Yarmouk, second in the first group, had beaten "B" winners Al Salmiya by the only goal. Al Salmiya certainly deserved to reach the final, at least, having gone through their group unbeaten and taken 22 points out of a possible 24.

Only one player managed to reach double figures in goals, just. Jassem Howeidi of Al Salmiya scored 10.

Al Jahraa, who won the championship in 1988-90 — the Gulf War prevented play in the following season — failed to keep their title, finishing third in the "A" group.

Al Qadsia failed in their attempt at the double when losing the Emir's Cup Final to Al Arabi, 4-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

KUWAIT

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Qadsia	12	8	1	3	20	6	17
Al Yarmouk	12	6	3	3	15	7	15
Al Jahraa	12	5	4	3	15	9	14
Qazma	12	5	3	4	10	8	13
Al Fheyheel	12	4	2	6	8	14	10
Al Tadamon	12	3	3	6	9	16	9
Khitan	12	1	4	7	4	21	6

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Salmiya	12	10	2	0	22	5	22
Al Arabi	12	9	2	1	19	5	20
Al Kuwait FC	12	7	2	3	20	12	16
Al Nasr	12	6	2	4	15	12	14
Al Salaybeekhat	12	4	0	8	12	22	8
Al Sahel	12	1	1	10	8	22	3
Al Shabab	12	0	1	11	7	25	1

Top Scorers: Jassem Howeidi (Al Salmiya) 10, Moayyed Al Haddad (Al Qadsia) 9, Fayez Al Fleij (Al Arabi) 8.
Championship play-offs: Al Salmiya 0 v 1 Al Yarmouk, Al Qadsia 1 v 0 Al Arabi.
Championship Final: Al Qadsia 2 v 0 Al Yarmouk.
Relegation play-offs: Qazma 2 v 0 Al Salaybeekhat, Al Nasr 0 v 1 Al Fheyheel.
Relegated: Al Salaybeekhat, Al Nasr, Al Tadamon, Khitan, Al Sahel, Al Shabab (these six will create next season's Second Division).
Emir's Cup Final: Al Arabi 1 v 1 Al Qadsia (after extra time). *Al Arabi won 4-1 on penalties.*

SOUTH KOREA

IM GUN-JAE was top scorer in the first half of the South Korean season, with his nine goals helping Lucky Gold Star to joint second place.

Im, the 24-year-old from Yonsei University, included a hat-trick against Daewoo in his total. Hyundai led with 21 points from 17 games, followed by Lucky Gold Star and Ilwha two behind.

Daewoo, last season's champions, are now next to bottom, and could repeat Lucky Gold Star's unusual feat of 1991 by plunging from first to last in a single year.

JAPAN

Jorginho in form

NAYOGA Grampus Eight had a dream start to the J League Nabisco Cup, the first serious tournament for Japan's new professional teams, when they beat Shimizu S Pulse 3-0.

Shimizu have a string of big names including Toninho, last season's top scorer in Japan, and former Newcastle striker Mirandinha, but Grampus Eight's Brazilian, Jorginho, dominated the play, scoring once and laying on the other two goals.

Yomiuri Verdy beat Stuart Baxter's Hiroshima Sanfrecce 3-2; JEF United won by the same margin against Urawa Red Diamonds; Kashima Antlers won 4-2 against AS Flugels; and Ganba Osaka defeated Yokohama Marinos 2-0.

The J League Nabisco Cup is being played in a league format with every team playing each other once. The semi-finals and final will then be played in October and November.

JUVENTUS drew both matches with the Japanese national team during their preliminaries to the new Italian season.

Both games, 2-2 in Kobe and 1-1 in Tokyo, were watched by 60,000 crowds, continuing an unprecedented boom at the big matches this year.

There have been capacity attendances for the Emperor's Cup Final, a Yomiuri-Nissan league match, the Recopa Cup Final, the Kirin Cup game against Argentina, and even the final of the high-school tournament.

Juventus were two down in Kobe, to goals by Yoshida and Miura, but levelled with a Roberto Baggio penalty — even some Italians thought the award was wrong — and a last-minute goal from Andy Moller.

In the second game it was Japan's turn to equalise late on, with a header by Horiike after a Baggio penalty.

England's David Platt did not play in the first game, but played all of the second, giving a steady performance in midfield.

Miura was the star, with Baggio mentioning his "unbelievable speed and high technique" — praise indeed.

JAPAN proved what the pundits have been saying for months when they snatched the Dynasty Cup in Beijing, on penalties.

This is the best Japan team ever, and they will enter the Asian Cup as favourites.

Japan started the tournament with a 0-0 draw against old rivals South Korea. China and North Korea drew 2-2 the same night.

North and South Korea also drew their second game 1-1, leaving Japan in the driving seat when they overcame hosts China 2-0. Japan's goals were scored by Fukuda and Takagi. The final qualifying game was a rout, 4-1 against North Korea. The South Koreans took the other final place with a 2-0 win against China.

The final was played in heavy rain. South Korea attacked from the start and went ahead through Jung Jsaekwon in the 32nd minute. Gradually, though, Japan gained control and justice was done in the 83rd minute when substitute Nakayama equalised.

Takagi gave the Japanese an extra-time lead, Kim Jeong-hyeok equalised a minute later, and Japan won the shoot-out 4-2.

Miura was named Player of the Tournament, and Takagi was top scorer with four goals.

MIKE **PLASTOW**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BANI YAS were the surprise club of the season in the United Arab Emirates, finishing third and winning the Emir's Cup.

Al Wasl scored 75 goals in 30 matches to take the championship with 46 points, one ahead of Sharjah and two in front of Bani Yas.

In the Cup, Bani Yas beat the favourites, Al Nasr, 2-1.

The defending champions, Al Shabab of Dubai, slipped to fourth and promptly changed their coach, replacing Poland's Anton Picniczek with Frenchman Claude Le Roy, who coached Cameroon in the 1982 World Cup, and later took charge of Senegal.

Zoheir Bakhit of Al Wasl scored 22 goals and clubmate Nasser Khmais 19, but Youssouf Atiq of Al Ahly Dubai was top scorer on 25.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

1991/92 FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Wasl	30	18	10	2	75	27	46
Sharjah	30	19	7	4	63	17	45
Bani Yas	30	18	8	4	49	16	44
Al Shabab	30	15	10	5	57	27	40
Al Nasr	30	16	7	7	51	30	39
Al Ahly Dubai	30	15	7	8	44	28	37
Al Ein	30	13	8	9	42	35	34
Al Jazira	30	12	8	10	26	43	32
Al Wehda	30	11	8	11	38	35	30
Al Khalij	30	8	12	10	26	35	28
Al Emirates	30	9	9	12	28	29	27
Kalbaa Utd	30	10	7	13	36	49	27
Al Shaab	30	9	6	15	29	43	24
Al Ahly Fojeira	30	3	6	21	14	49	12
Ras Al Kheima	30	1	6	23	18	59	8
Ajman	30	1	5	24	16	90	7

Top Scorers: Youssouf Atiq (Al Ahly Dubai) 25, Zoheir Bakhit (Al Wasl) 22, Nasser Khamis (Al Wasl) 19.
Relegated: Al Emirates; Al Shaab, Al Ahly Fojeira, Ras Al Kheima, Ajman.
Relegation play-off: Kalbaa Utd 1 v 1 Al Emirates (after extra time). *Kalbaa Utd won 5-3 on penalties.*
Promoted: Al Ourouba.
Emir's Cup Final: Bani Yas 2 v 1 Al Nasr.

Burundi provide the biggest shock

BY MARK **GLEESON**

THE line-up for the African Nations' Cup finals in Tunisia will not be confirmed for almost a year, but already indications are that there should be little change from the 1992 edition in Senegal.

Qualification for the remaining berths in the 12-nation field — holders Ivory Coast and the hosts are guaranteed automatic places — began in August, and all but two of the 12 finalists in Senegal look likely to be back for another crack at the title.

Kenya, who managed to scrape into the last three tournaments, seem to have run out of luck this time, having picked up one point from their opening two matches, while Congo, surprise quarter-finalists in Dakar, face tough opposition from two minnows in their group.

The Congolese were beaten 1-0 by Burundi in probably the biggest shock of the 30 matches played in the month. The tiny East African nation had not played an international match since August 1982 and had only once before entered the qualifying phase.

An away win in a friendly in Gabon in June was some indication of their potential, but nothing like the shock created with the win in Bujumbura. Two weeks later, Burundi went on to force a 2-2 draw away to an over-confident Guinea, also very much in the running, and establish themselves as the new fairytale team of Africa and the side to watch in Group Six.

Kenya, who had problems getting their players to Lesotho for their opening match when the federation failed to provide airline tickets on time, needed a last-minute equaliser for a 2-2 draw against another country with limited previous participation at this level.

That flop was followed by a comprehensive beating at home by Zaire, who look a polished outfit despite all their domestic political turmoil.

Otherwise, the same old faces are emerging, although many will still have some heavy battles on their hands to ensure qualification.

Pressed

Cameroon, for example, got a priceless away point against Gabon, but will be pressed all the way by their southern neighbours.

Algeria, the 1990 winners, suffered a shock defeat in Sierre Leone, where a national holiday was declared in celebration, but should progress along with Senegal from Group Three, where the top two finishers qualify.

Zambia also have a tough task with neighbours Zimbabwe, having already disposed of South Africa.

The Zimbabweans, complete with English exiles Bruce Grobbelaar and Peter Ndlovu, took South Africa apart in the latter's first competitive match in Africa and Zambia followed up the 4-1 hammering by winning 1-0 in Johannesburg.

The South Africans, who reckoned they could hold their own on the continent after credible performances in the three-match friendly series against Cameroon in July, obviously still have much to learn.

Zambia and Zimbabwe meet next in a crunch decider, but the Zambians have always had the upper hand over their long-time rivals and should slip into the final tournament.

Ghana, too, are poised for another crack at a title most thought they would win this year. Abedi Pele from Marseille, Anthony Yeboah from Eintracht Frankfurt, and Metz's Tony Baffoe (right) were all on hand for the 3-0 home win over Burkina Faso that put the Black Stars in the lead in their group.

The three were all flown in overnight after their respective European matches in Marseille owner Bernard Tapie's jet.

George Weah, now at Paris St Germain, had a similar arrangement with his club for Liberia's opening match against Burkina Faso, rushing straight to the airport after PSG's home win over Sochaux to catch an overnight charter with team-mate Joe Nagbe of Epinal. But just before take-off, they were told not to bother.

Burkinabe officials had pushed forward the match against Liberia by 24 hours to Saturday afternoon and the game already had been completed, 1-1.

All this despite vehement protests from the Liberians, who wanted a Sunday kick-off to allow their star player to arrive from France, not only to lead his team into battle but also to bring the smart new kit and tracksuits, which Weah had bought.

There was more folly in Group Eight, where Mauritania withdrew on the eve of the qualification process and the Confederation of African Football agreed to let Libya take their place. But with the United Nations ban on air travel in and out of Colonel Gaddafi's country, the Libyans could not honour a scheduled fixture with Morocco, and pulled out.

That leaves four teams fighting for two places, which should be filled by the Moroccans and Egypt, despite their losing their opening match in Malawi.

BRUCIE'S BACK

BRUCE GROBBELAAR is back on the international scene after an eight-year absence, having finally won the right to play again for his native Zimbabwe.

Liverpool goalkeeper, Grobbelaar, now 34, played for Zimbabwe in their opening match in the African Nations' Cup qualifiers against South Africa at the end of a dramatic run of events.

Grobbelaar (left) had made the last of his seven appearances for Zimbabwe in 1984 in a World Cup qualifier against Egypt in Cairo, but his chances of playing since had been ruled out by the withdrawal of his citizenship.

Zimbabwe had brought out strict rules on dual nationality and, at the same time, ended Grobbelaar's international career by withdrawing his passport.

His controversial autobiography was one of the reasons for the decision by Zimbabwe's government, whose leaders felt insulted by the goalkeeper, once a soldier in the war against the black liberation movements.

For years now Grobbelaar has been trying to win back his citizenship, but when he was granted British nationality in the late 1980s he further aggravated the problem.

Grobbelaar, nevertheless, made annual visits to Zimbabwe as well as to neighbouring South Africa, where he was born. There were often calls for him to return to the team, but despite pleas from the Zimbwean Football Association (ZIFA), government officials stood by their decision.

Trained

Last July, when Zimbabwe had a chance to qualify for the African Nations' Cup finals in Senegal, Grobbelaar trained with the squad ahead of the match against Congo.

But under FIFA and CAF rules, he had to have the citizenship of the country he represented, and this was consistently refused.

In July this year he received another plea from Zimbabwean football officials to play in the match against South Africa at the start of the Nations' Cup qualifying campaign. Grobbelaar could not resist, even though his club had just bought an expensive new goalkeeper, David James, and his place in the Liverpool team was under threat.

The decision to put country before club, without any guarantees that he would actually play, seemed even more foolhardy when Grobbelaar let in four goals in the Charity Shield match against Leeds.

But Grobbelaar took the gamble anyway, flying to Harare without the guarantee that his passport would be returned.

He arrived on the Thursday before the match in the middle of a government crisis, with some hardliners standing firm and other ministers feeling that Grobbelaar should be allowed to play.

After two days of repeated meetings and applications, Grobbelaar had not been given a decision, and set off to pack his bags for the return flight.

Then ZIFA's new president, Trevor Carelse-Juul, walked into his room and said: "I've something here close to my heart for you," and pulled out that elusive passport. Grobbelaar would be allowed to play after all! The government had finally relented.

There was a heroes welcome for him as he stepped out at the national stadium, and a frenzied celebration after the 4-1 win, with Grobbelaar mobbed after the match.

"It's great to be back," he said.

Hayatou still in the running

FIFA president Joao Havelange's ill-health and African anger at Morocco's failure to win the right to host the 1998 World Cup has thrust Issa Hayatou into contention for the role of the next leader of world football.

Hayatou, a 46-year-old teacher from Cameroon, has made a remarkable climb up the ladder of international football administration, and positioned himself to replace ageing Brazilian Havelange.

Hayatou (left) has been president of the Confederation of African Football since 1988, and a newly-appointed vice-president of FIFA. He now becomes the candidate Africa will push forward in an angry if somewhat over-the-top reaction to Morocco's rejection.

The CAF is the second-largest organisation within FIFA, beaten for size only by UEFA, which should grow even larger when the remaining republics of the former Soviet Union join.

In any election campaign, Hayatou would earn all of Africa's votes and then pull in a sizeable chunk from other third world nations in Asia and the Caribbean — putting him on equal footing with any candidate from either Europe or South America and setting up an absorbing battle for power.

Havelange's term is not up for another two years, but African officials already are working behind the scenes to boost Hayatou's candidature. One CAF executive committee official says intensive lobbying will soon begin in the closed circles of footballing power.

Hayatou has certainly shown a large appetite for work. The CAF has been shaken around, banged on the head and put to more effective work since his election, with Hayatou playing very much a hands-on role.

He divides his time between his home in Garoua, Cameroon, and CAF headquarters in Cairo.

Marketed

New tournaments have been introduced for African clubs, the junior structures have been firmed up, rights for the showpiece African Nations' Cup have been marketed, and Hayatou also has been able to watch growing African success at international level.

"He has fantastic foresight," says colleague Ismail Bhamjee from Botswana. "He's a real workaholic and loves football."

If that is the case, then it certainly runs in the family. Hayatou was born the son of a chief in the north of Cameroon and his brother is the country's prime minister.

Ironically, Hayatou might never have made it to the corridors of power in Zurich, only squeaking in at the Casablanca elections in 1988.

He was behind in the voting to main rival Godfried Ekue of Togo after the first round of balloting, then tied 20-20 in the second ballot, and squeezed in 22-18 in the third round. He was 41 at the time, the youngest-ever confederation president.

That bitter battle continues to ripple in African soccer's political power plays, with the recent executive committee elections in Senegal throwing Hayatou's new guard up against spoiling candidates from several French-speaking countries, still upset at Ekue's failure.

There were some dirty battles in the elections for CAF's committee at the congress in Dakar in January, but Hayatou was re-elected unopposed.

In the end, the president's youthful clique shrugged off the challenge and edged out the opposition.

Hayatou has upset some people with his obvious anger at Morocco's failure to get the '98 World Cup, but he is definitely a possible as Havelange's successor.

World football might soon get to know him a whole lot better.

World Cup: five out, three in

AFRICA'S qualifying campaign for the 1994 World Cup finals in the US starts this month with five nations already out.

But the withdrawals, all prompted by financial restrictions, have not left any gaping holes in the preliminaries. FIFA have used the opportunity to give belated berths to three latecomers — Benin, Namibia and South Africa.

The latter two became official FIFA members only at the Zurich congress in July and made applications for a place in the draw after Burkina Faso, Malawi, Sao Tome e Principe, Sierre Leone and Uganda pulled out. FIFA bent the rules to allow the southern African pair into the qualifiers and Benin, a long-time FIFA member who did not enter before last September's deadline, rode in on their coat-tails.

The South Africans, who had been promised an easy berth, were shocked to find themselves drawn in Group D along with hot favourites Nigeria, African Nations' Cup quarter-finalists Congo and Libya, who have not played a single internationals since the last World Cup qualifiers almost four years ago.

Namibia got South Africa's promised place instead — alongside Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia in Group H — while Benin replace Malawi in Group F and must play Ethiopia, Morocco and Tunisia.

There are nine opening-round groups in the African qualifiers, all of which will be decided on a round-robin basis, with the country finishing top of each group progressing into the second phase early next year.

The unpredictable results at the start of the African Nations' Cup qualifying campaign, which is running parallel with the World Cup qualifiers, makes forecasts all the more difficult — even though FIFA seeded the teams.

In Group A, for example, Algeria and Ghana battle for a single place in the second round, while Morocco and Tunisia also should provide a close race in Group F.

Cameroon, Liberia and Zaire could fight it down to the wire in Group B, and there is no easy ride for Egypt in Group C, against Angola and Zimbabwe.

There are easier matches in store for Ivory Coast, the African champions, Zambia and Kenya, but the real action is only guaranteed when the three groups of three nations each play against each other in the second round to determine the African trio for the United States.

● *Full fixtures on page 56*

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

Preliminary round

	1st	2nd
Tourbillon (Chad) v Faca FC (CAR)	0-0	1-1
AS Police (M'tania) v AS Real Bamako (Mali)	1-1	1-1
(Real won 5-4 on pens)		
St Louis (Sey) v Young Africans (Tan)	1-3	1-4
Sahel SC (Niger) v Postel Sport (Ben)	2-1	2-1
LPRC Oilers (Lib) v Mighty Blackpool (SL)	1-0	1-3
St George (Eth) v El Ittihad (Lib)	2-1	0-3
Defence Force XI (Bot) v Mbabane Highlanders (Swa)	1-1	0-1
Arsenal (Les) v Eleven Arrows (Nam)	3-0	1-0
Port Autonome (Sen) v SC Praia (CVI)	0-0	0-0
(Sporting won 3-1 on pens)		
El Nguema (Eq. Gui) v Primiero Agosto (Ang)	2-3	
El Nguema withdrew from second leg.		

First round

Tourbillon v El Hilal (Sudan)	2-1	0-1
Sunrise FC (Mau) v AC Sotema (Mad)	2-3	1-0
AS Real Bamako v Wydad Casablanca (Mor)	2-1	0-2
Diables Noirs (Con) v Julius Berger (Nig)	2-1	0-4
Young Africans v Ismaila (Egy)	0-2	1-1
Sahel SC v Mouloudia Constantine (Alg)	2-1	0-2
Mighty Blackpool v Canon Yaounde (Cam)	2-1	1-2
(Canon won 4-2 on pens)		
El Ittihad v Gor Mahia (Kenya)	1-0	0-2
Mbane Highlanders v Nkana Red Devils (Zam)	0-2	1-7
Arsenal v Kampala City Council (Uga)	2-1	0-1
SC Praia v Club Africain (Tun, holders)	0-0	1-3
Primiero Agosta v AS Sogara (Gab)	1-0	2-0
Mikishi (Zai) v Ashante Kotoko (Gha)	1-1	0-2
Inter Star (Bur) v Costa do Sol (Moz)	2-0	0-3
Etoile Filante (BF) v ASEC Abidjan (IC)	1-2	0-2
Horoya (Gui) v Esperance (Tun)	2-0	0-2
(Horoya won 5-4 on pens)		

Second round

AC Sotema v El Hilal	2-1	
Sotema withdrew from second leg		
Julius Berger v Wydad Casablanca	0-0	1-2
Mouloudia Constantine v Ismaila	1-0	0-1
Gor Mahia v Canon Yaounde	0-0	1-1
Kampala City Council v Nkana Red Devils	0-4	0-2
Primiero Agosto v Club Africain	2-0	0-3
Costa do Sol v Ashante Kotoko	1-2	1-2
Horoya v ASEC Abidjan	1-2	0-4

Quarter-final draw

Nkana Red Devils v Wydad Casablanca
ASEC Abidjan v Ashante Kotoko
Gor Mahia v El Hilal
Club Africain v Ismailia

Leading scorers

4 — Mounkaila (Sahel), Mwamba (Young Africans), Malitoli (Nkana Red Devils)
3 — Bebe, Kouadio (Africa Sports), Remi (AC Sotema), Mutale (Nkana Red Devils), F Rouissi (Club Africain)

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Preliminary round

Diables Rogue Fatima (CAR) v At. Malabo (Eq. Gui)	3-0	1-1
Chief Santos (Nam) v Mochudi Centre Chiefs (Bot)		
Chief Santos withdrew		
Denver Sundowns (Swa) v Club de Gaza (Moz)	5-3	1-1
Railways SC (Tan) v Matlama (Les)	1-0	0-1
(Railways won 3-2 on pens)		
Mogas 90 FC (Ben) v Postel 2000 (Chad)	3-0	0-2
Port Authority (SL) v Amicale des Douanes (M'tania)	3-0	0-1

First round

Diables Rogue Fatima v Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam)	1-0	0-0
Elecsport (Con) v El Kanemi Warriors (Nig)	2-0	0-1
Mochudi CC v Power Dynamos (Zam, holders)	0-2	0-4
Vital '0 (Bur) v BTM (Mad)	2-0	0-2
(Vital '0 won 4-3 on pens)		
AFC Leopards (Kenya v Al Ahly (Egy)	2-1	0-2
Denver Sundowns v Kabwe Warriors (Zam)	1-3	1-3
Al Merreihk (Sudan) v Express FC (Uga)	1-0	1-1
Railways SC *walkover* v Highlanders (Zim)	*disqualified*	
Diaraf Dakar (Sen) v ASFAG (Gui)	0-1	2-2
Mogas 90 FC v ES Sahel (Tun)	0-0	1-1
AS Mane (Male) v USM Bel Abbas (Alg)	2-0	0-5
Ports Authority v Africa Sports (IC)	2-2	0-4
USM (Gab) v ASFA Yennega (BF)	2-0	0-0
Olympics FC (Niger) v Ahly Benghazi (Lib)	1-0	0-0
Invincible XI (Lib) v Accra Great Olympics (Gha)	0-2	1-0
Petro Atletico (Ang) v CS Daring Motema Pembe (Zai)	1-0	0-1
(Motema Pembe won 4-3 on pens)		

Second round

Elecsport v Diables Rogue Fatima	1-0	1-4
Vital '0 *walkover* v Power Dynamos *withdrew*		
Kabwe Warriors v Al Ahly	1-0	0-1
(Al Ahly won 4-3 on pens)		
Railways SC v Al Merreikh	2-1	1-3
Mogas 90 FC v ASFAG	3-1	0-1
Africa Sports v USM Bel Abbas	5-1	1-1
Olympics FC v USM	3-2	0-1
CS Daring Motema Pembe v Accra Great Olympics	4-2	0-1

Quarter-final draw

Diables Rogue Fatima v Vital '0
Al Merreikh v USM
Mogas 90 FC v CS Daring Motema Pembe
Al Ahly v Africa Sports

Leading scorers

4 — Okolosi (Africa Sports), Dube (Denver Sundowns)
3 — Oliha (Africa Sports), M Manddlazi (Denver Sundowns), Coker (Ports Authority)

1991 CAF CUP

First round

Kisumu Postal (Ken) v Small Simba (Tan)	2-1	2-0
Nakivubo Sports Villa (Uga) v Moneni Pirates (Swa)	3-1	2-1
Elwahda (Lib) v Al Mourada (Sud)	1-0	1-0
ASM Oran (Alg) v AS Air Mauritanie (M'tania)	4-0	1-2
Mufulira Wanderers (Zam) *withdrew* v Sagrada Esperance (Ang) *walkover*		
Linare (Les) v Ferroviario de Maputo (Moz)	0-0	0-4
Djoliba (Mali) v USCB (BF)	2-1	0-1
Shooting Stars SC (Nig)	*bye*	
Etoile du Congo (Con) v Desp. Mongomo (Eq. Gui)	5-0	?-?
AS Gagnoa (IC) v Petroca (CAR)	3-0	0-1
Diamant de Yaounde (Cam) v Ascot (Chad)	2-0	1-1
Mbong Sport (Zai) v African Stars (Nam)	3-0	2-0
AS Kaloum (Gui) v ASMO (Gab)	3-0	1-5
Real Tamale Utd (Gha) v Dragons de l'Oueme (Ben)	1-0	0-1
(Dragons won 6-5 on pens)		
CA Bizerte (Tun) v Zumunta (Niger)	3-0	1-1
ASAC Ndiambour (Sen) v East End Lions (SL)	0-0	0-0
(ASAC won 5-4 on pens)		

Second round

Nakivubo Sports Villa v Kisumu Postal	1-0	1-0
ASM Oran v Elwahda	3-0	1-3
Ferroviario de Maputo v Sagrada Esperance	3-2	2-3
(Ferroviario won 5-4 on pens)		
USCB v Shooting Stars SC	1-1	0-3
AS Gagnoa v Etoile du Congo	2-0	1-0
Mbongo Sport v Diamant de Yaounde	0-0	1-1
Dragons de l'Oueme v ASMO	0-0	0-3
ASAC Ndiambour v CA Bizerte	1-0	1-4

Quarter-final draw

AS Gagnoa v Ferroviario de Maputo
Nakivubo Sports Villa v ASMO
ASM Oran v CA Bizerte
Shooting Stars SC v Mbongo Sport

Leading scorers

4 — Tonecas (Ferroviario de Maputo)
3 — Goulal (ASM Oran), Amouzou (Etoile du Congo), Batambuze (Nakivubo Sports Villa), Kabongo (Mbongo Sport)

diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by

KEIR RADNEDGE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

ITALY: *Laurent Blanc's hopes of transferring from Napoli back to France with Paris Saint-Germain collapse along with negotiations between the clubs.*

SPAIN: *Real Madrid beat Hercules 3-1 in their first match under new coach Benito Floro.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

ITALY: *Foggia sign Costa Rica's World Cup striker Hernan Medford . . . Parma's Swedish hero Tomas Brolin (below) is ruled out for at least five weeks by the knee injury suffered in the Olympic Games.*

SPAIN: *United States midfielder Tab Ramos is sold from Figueras to fellow second division side Betis.*

UNITED STATES: *Olympic squad members Cobi Jones and Mike Lapper are added to the senior national squad for the Valle d'Aosta tournament in Italy.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

ACTION: *Spain win the Olympic gold medal, beating Poland 3-2 in a thrilling final before a capacity 95,000 in Barcelona's Nou Camp . . . Marseille beat Toulon 2-1 on the opening day of the new French season thanks to second half goals from their new imports, Martin Vazquez and Voller . . . Leeds beat Liverpool 4-3 at Wembley in the Charity Shield thanks to a hat-trick from Eric Cantona.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

ACTION: *Anderlecht open the new Belgian season with a 4-0 away win over Lommel . . . Ajax beat PSV 3-0 to win the Amsterdam pre-season tournament in Holland . . . Hugo Sanchez scores twice on his championship debut for America back in Mexico.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says experiments are to be conducted in future age group events to see whether yellow card tallies should be scrapped after the first round groups in the World Cup finals.*

TEAM OF THE MONTH . . .

LATVIA — for holding European champions Denmark to a goalless draw in the World Cup qualifiers.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

ACTION: *South Korea beat Indonesia 1-0 and Australia defeat Thailand 1-0 on the second day of the Independence Cup in Jakarta.*

ITALY: *Joao Paulo, Bari's Brazilian right winger, breaks his left leg in a training game. He had only just returned to full training after breaking the same leg at the start of last season.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA invites South Africa to take the place of withdrawn Sao Tome in the regional qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup. Benin will replace Malawi, Namibia replace Burkina Faso.*

ZIMBABWE: *Federation officials insist they want Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar to play in the forthcoming African Cup qualifier against South Africa in Harare — even though this would mean him missing Liverpool's English season opener against Nottingham Forest.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

ARGENTINA: *Diego Maradona says he is considering returning to Napoli, after all, if that is necessary to break the deadlock over his return to action.*

DENMARK: *European title-winner Kent Nielsen quits the Danish national team to spend more time with his family.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA president Joao Havelange enters hospital in Zurich suffering from "dehydration" after his hectic schedule at the Barcelona Olympic Games . . . FIFA says the under-23 age limit will be retained for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta . . . Switzerland manager Roy Hodgson drops striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz from his squad for the World Cup visit to Estonia.*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

ACTION: *Honduras beat El Salvador 3-0 in a friendly in Los Angeles . . . Lithuania beat Latvia 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier . . . the new Conmebol Cup, a South American equivalent of the UEFA Cup, looks doomed when only 6,000 turn out to see Atletico Mineiro beat Fluminense 5-1 (and 6-3 on aggregate).*

ARGENTINA: *Diego Maradona says he will retire if Napoli refuse to release him from his contract.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Top officials agree to seek to maintain a united championship despite the impending split of the country when Slovakia attains independence.*

ENGLAND: *Bruce Grobbelaar decides to play for Zimbabwe in the African Nations' Cup at the weekend and risk missing Liverpool's first game of the new English season . . . Tottenham goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt, the Norway keeper, is one of the few to welcome the new law banning the handling of backpasses.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

ACTION: *In the Independence Cup in Jakarta, South Korea reach the final by defeating title-holders Australia 1-0 while Malaysia beat Thailand 2-0.*

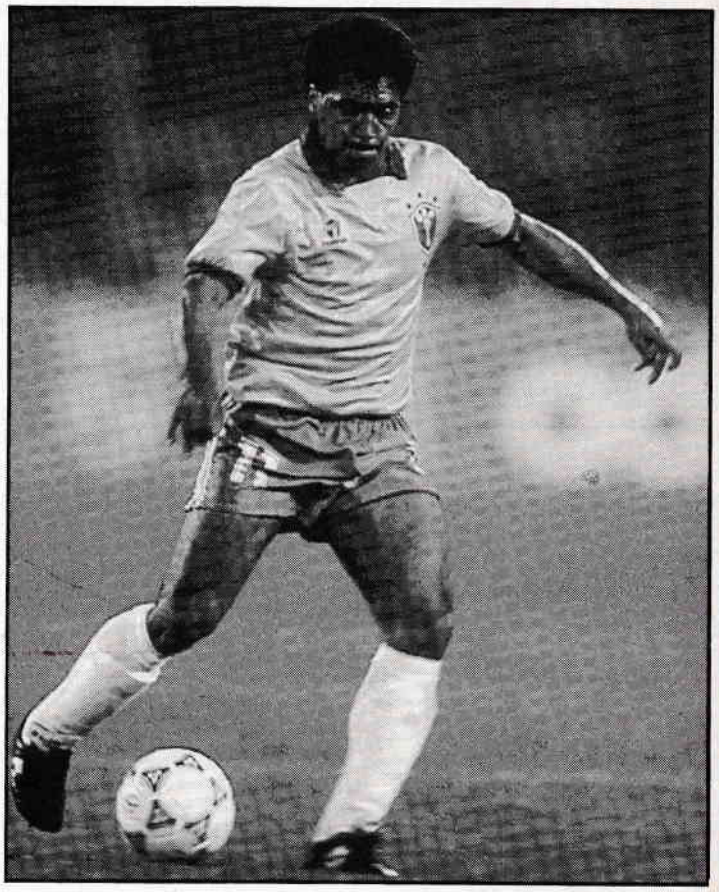
ARGENTINA: *Diego Maradona changes tack, this time suggesting he may, after all, return to play for Napoli.*

NIGERIA: *Coach James Peters is sacked by the federation in the wake of the under-21s' 1-0 home defeat by Congo, a defeat which prompted crowd riots which had to be quelled by riot police using tear gas.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

ACTION: *Australia beat Indonesia 3-0 in the Independence Cup in Jakarta, thus helping Malaysia into the final — even though Malaysia lose their last group match 1-0 to South Korea . . . Japan draw 2-2 with touring Juventus.*

BRAZIL: *Brazil recall Romario (below), who has not played for his country since the 1990 World Cup finals, for the forthcoming friendly against France.*



GERMANY: *Kaiserslautern run up the first victory of the new season, defeating Koln 1-0 with a debut goal from new Swedish star, Jan Eriksson. Nurnberg forward Uwe Rossler becomes the first player sent off in a 0-0 draw at home to Werder Bremen.*

ITALY: *Napoli reject Maradona's demands for the reactivation of his contract.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

ACTION: *Belgium goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme records his 139th league clean sheet as Mechelen win 1-0 away to Waregem . . . Bayern Munich win their opening game in Germany by an emphatic 3-0 away to Uerdingen. New defender Thomas Helmer scores the third goal . . . Nottingham Forest beat Liverpool 1-0 on the opening day in England . . . French cup-winners Monaco crash 4-1 away to Auxerre . . . Austria Salzburg beat Modling 3-0 to stay top in Austria. . . . champions Lyngby lose 1-0 away to Aarhus on the first day of the new Danish season.*

BELGIUM: *Cercle sign Australian international Brian Longo.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

ACTION: *Panama beat Costa Rica 1-0 in a World Cup CONCACAF qualifier . . . South Africa crash 4-1 to Zimbabwe in an African Nations' Cup qualifier . . . Vasas and MTK both open the new Hungarian season with 4-1 wins at home to Gyor and Veszprem respectively.*

MALTA: *Brian Talbot, former players' union chairman and West Bromwich player-manager, takes over at Hibernian.*

TURKEY: *Galatasaray sign Red Star Belgrade defender Elvir Bolic.*

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

ACTION: *Russia, in their first game since 1912, beat Mexico 2-0 in Moscow with goals from Karpin and Popov.*

GERMANY: *Andy Brehme retires from the national team.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA decides that £200,000 of the European Championship profits due to Denmark should be apportioned, instead, to Yugoslavia to cover their costs in preparing, in vain, to play in the finals in Sweden.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

SPAIN: *Real Madrid sign up kitchenware company Teka as new sponsor for their football and basketball teams.*

TURKEY: *Confusion reigns over the future of Josef Venglos after Fenerbahce lose 3-2 in a friendly to Galatasaray. Some reports suggest that Todor Veselinovic has been appointed in his place.*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

ACTION: *The first legs of the preliminary rounds in the Champions' and Cup-winners' Cups are staged . . . Czechoslovakia and Austria draw 2-2 in a Bratislava friendly . . . Bulgaria and Mexico draw 1-1 in Sofia.*

BELGIUM: *Champions Brugge lose 1-0 at home to Standard Liege.*

PORTUGAL: *Benfica beat Real Madrid 2-0 in a prestige pre-season friendly in Lisbon. William and Isaias score the goals.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

GERMANY: *Roma's Thomas Hassler (right) is voted German Footballer of the Year. He polls 470 and is followed by Guido Buchwald (141) and Stephane Chapuisat (60).*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

ACTION: *Fiorentina beat the United States 4-0 in the opening match of the Baretti tournament in Valle d'Aosta.*

ENGLAND: *Ken Monkou, one-time Feyenoord defender, is sold by Chelsea to Southampton.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

ACTION: *Prodigal son Vaclav Danek scores all four goals as Innsbruck beat Vorwarts Steyr 4-1 in Austria . . . a John Bosman goal brings Anderlecht a 1-0 win over old rivals Mechelen in Belgium . . . new signing Adrian Knup scores his first goal for champions Stuttgart in the 3-0 defeat of Nurnberg . . . George Weah scores twice as Paris Saint-Germain stay joint top in France by winning 4-0 away to Strasbourg.*

URUGUAY: *Nacional report an inquiry from Marseille about their Panamanian striker Julio Cesar Dely Valdes, who was the Uruguayan league's top scorer with 17 goals last season.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

ACTION: *Costa Rica beat Panama 5-1 in a World Cup CONCACAF tie . . . Dennis Bergkamp scores twice as Ajax beat Go Ahead Eagles 3-1 in Holland . . . Servette stay top by beating Aarau 3-0 in Switzerland thanks to two goals from Brazilian forward Anderson da Silva.*

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

ACTION: *Juventus beat the US 3-0 in St Vincent to win the annual Baretti tournament, even though US keeper Tony Meola saves an Andy Moller penalty.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich swoop to buy Lothar Matthaus back from Internazionale though he will not have recovered from his knee injury until the end of September.*

FRANCE: *The Vujovic twins, veteran former Yugoslav World Cup internationals, sign for Nice "for one last season together."*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

ACTION: *France lose 2-0 at home to Brazil . . . Latvia surprisingly hold Denmark goalless in a World Cup qualifier . . . Norway celebrate their federation's 90th anniversary with a 2-2 draw at home to Sweden; Hungary beat Ukraine 2-1; Turkey beat Bulgaria 3-2; Romania beat Mexico 2-0; and Finland draw 0-0 with Poland.*

GERMANY: *A fan is knifed to death in a scuffle at Dortmund station in the violent wake of the match between Borussia and Schalke . . . Koln transfer-list former East German international midfielder Rico Steinmann.*

ITALY: *Denmark's European champion Henrik Larsen is fined by Pisa for being late arriving for pre-season training.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA confirm receipt of Libya's withdrawal from the World Cup qualifiers.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

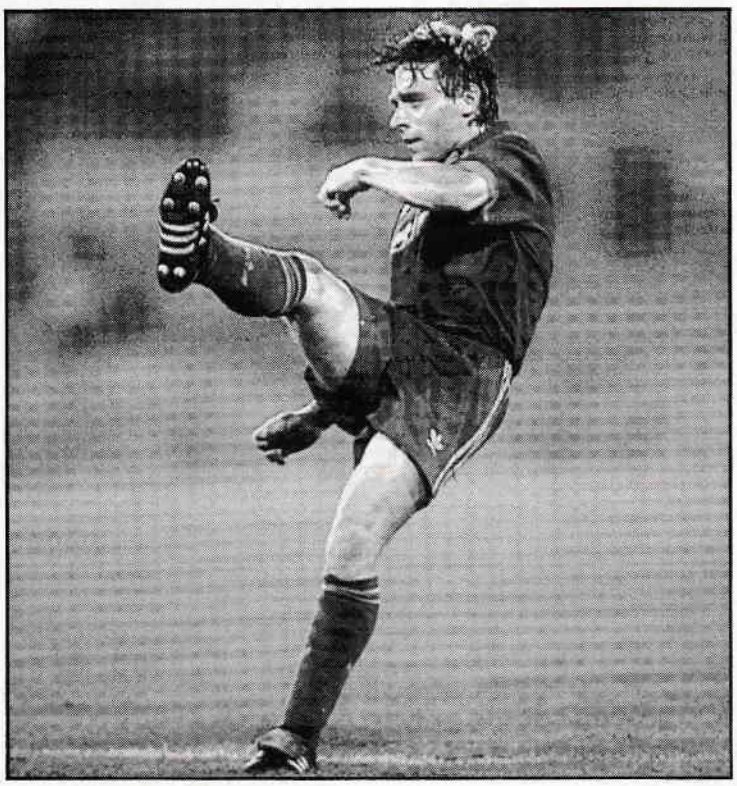
ACTION: *St Vincent beat Surinam 2-1 in a World Cup CONCACAF qualifier . . . Brazil win the South American youth championship for the third consecutive time thanks to a 1-0 win over hosts Colombia . . . South Africa lose 1-0 at home to Zambia in a string of African Nations' Cup qualifiers.*

ITALY: *Milan beat Parma 2-1 to win the Supercup thanks to goals from Van Basten and Massaro.*

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

HOLLAND: *PSV suspend Brazil striker Romario for failing to turn up for training. The player says this has been done only once — and in warmer weather.*

SPAIN: *Sevilla send Napoli a fax offering talks to try to unlock the Maradona impasse — just as Brazilian club Palmeiras join the queue of interested clubs.*



THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

SPAIN: *Barcelona beat Feyenoord 2-0 in Nou Camp to win "their own" Juan Gamper Trophy.*

URUGUAY: *Miljan Miljanic rejects an offer to manage Uruguay's national team through the World Cup qualifiers next year. But the federation still bans all transfers to foreign clubs until after the qualifying rounds.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

FRANCE: *Laurent Blanc breaks off transfer talks with Paris Saint-Germain to return to Napoli, even though the Italian club do not want to keep him.*

UNITED STATES: *Officials arrange a friendly against Canada early in October as a warm-up for the Intercontinental Champions Cup being staged in Saudi Arabia in mid-October and featuring the US, Argentina, Ivory Coast and Saudi Arabia.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

SPAIN: *Sao Paulo beat Real Madrid 4-0 in the final of the Carranza trophy in Cadiz. Zamorano is sent off.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ACTION: *Czechoslovakia beat Belgium 1-0 in a European under-21 tie.*

AUSTRALIA: *Five venues are named for the 1993 World Youth Cup: Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra.*

ENGLAND: *ITV become the latest television company to sign exclusive domestic terms with UEFA to televise the semi-final groups of the Champions' Cup.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA postpones a decision on whether to expel Yugoslavia from the World Cup qualifiers under the terms of United Nations sanctions.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

ACTION: *Czechoslovakia lose 2-1 at home to Belgium in a World Cup qualifier . . . friendly action sees Austria draw 1-1 with Portugal . . . the second leg matches are played in the preliminary round of the Champions' and Cup-winners' Cups, with both Israeli representatives progressing and Latvia's Skonto Riga thrashing KI of the Faroe Islands in the Champions' Cup.*

AUSTRALIA: *Four top clubs threaten to defy the federation's latest attempt to ban ethnic names. They are the Melbourne clubs Melbourne Croatia, South Melbourne Hellas, Preston Makedonia and Heidelberg Alexander United.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Skoda sign a sponsorship deal with the FA by which the motor manufacturer will provide four cars, two vans and cash to run the under-21 team.*

ITALY: *A two-hour meeting regarding the Maradona case between officials of Napoli and Sevilla ends in deadlock. Meanwhile, Napoli sell veteran Brazilian midfielder Alemao to Atalanta.*

FRANCE: *German veteran Rudi Voller misses two penalties but scores two more goals as Marseille beat Auxerre 2-0.*

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich score their fourth successive win by defeating bottom-of-the-table Koln 3-1 away.*

ITALY: *Sampdoria are surprisingly knocked out of the Cup in the second round on away goals by Second Division Cesena.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

ACTION: *Canada lose 2-1 to the US in St John's, New Brunswick.*

ITALY: *The Italian federation sides with Napoli in resisting FIFA pressure for a sale of Maradona.*

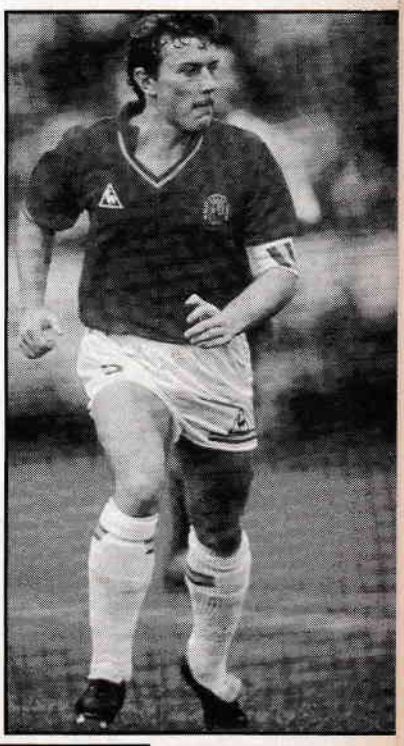
ZIMBABWE: *The federation offers record new bonuses for the Afrian Nations' Cup and World Cup qualifiers.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ACTION: *Australia win 2-1 away to the Solomon Islands in the World Cup.*

ARGENTINA: *Maradona's lawyer says he will have to be examined by a team of psychologists before any transfer to another club can be confirmed. Maradona is reported by lawyer Marcos Franchi to be "extremely depressed" by the impasse over his bid to quit Napoli.*

SPAIN: *New manager Javier Clemente omits Emilio Butragueno (below) from his squad for the friendly against England. It is the first time Butragueno has been dropped by his country.*



PLAYER OF THE MONTH . . .

GUNNAR HALLE — for his hat-trick in Norway's ten-goal demolition of San Marino.

CONTINUED OVER

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

ACTION: *Gor Mahia of Kenya beat El Hilal of Sudan 2-0 in the first leg of an African Champions' Cup quarter-final . . . Anderlecht win 6-1 away to FC Liege in Belgium . . . Bayern make it five in a row by thrashing Hamburg 4-0. American striker Eric Wynalda scores both goals as promoted Saarbrucken beat Kaiserslautern 2-0 . . . Sporting Libson score their first victory of the Portuguese season but are given a second-half shock, hanging on to beat Famalicao 4-3 after leading 4-0 at the interval . . . Barcelona open their defence of the Spanish title with a dramatic 2-1 victory over Real Madrid.*

ITALY: *National boss Arrigo Sacchi names eight players from his old club, Milan, in his Italy squad for the friendly against Holland.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

ACTION: *Al Ahly of Egypt beat Africa Sports of Ivory Coast 2-0 in an African Champions' Cup quarter-final first leg . . . Boca Juniors beat Lanus 2-0 to stay a point clear of River Plate and Huracan at the top of the table . . . Juventus of Sao Paulo have four players sent off in their 4-1 defeat away to Portuguesa, who also have one player expelled . . . Holland's early Match of the Season sees Ajax beaten 2-1 at home by PSV . . . Torino beat promoted Ancona 4-1 to run up the best win on the first day of the new Italian season . . . Davor Suker scores a hat-trick to lead Sevilla to a 4-3 win over Albacete in Spain.*

DID YOU KNOW ? . . .

Barcelona's reserve goalkeeper, Jesus Mariano Angoy, is Johan Cruyff's son-in-law — since just before last season's Champions' Cup Final.

IRAN: *The Iran national team is to play several friendly matches in Kuwait in mid-October in preparation for the Asian championships which start on October 29.*

ITALY: *Napoli deny reports that they are discussing selling Maradona to Palmeiras of Brazil.*

ROMANIA: *Universitatea Craiova sack coach Sorin Cirtu after 12 players protest to the directors about his "dictatorial methods."*

SPAIN: *Atletico Madrid ban from the Calderon stadium all media representatives who refuse to pay charges ranging from £10,000 to £175,000 for covering their matches. Controversy on the pitch, too, where Atletico veteran Bernd Schuster (right) is sent off in the 3-2 win over Tenerife.*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

ITALY: *Milan's Franco Baresi, injured in weekend action, is replaced in Italy's Holand-bound squad by Parma's Luigi Apolloni.*

SPAIN: *Press organisations prepare for legal action against Atletico Madrid's attempt to impose match reporting charges. One other club, Rayo Vallecano, say they may follow Atletico's example.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA, mindful of the civil war, rejects an appeal from the new Bosnian federation to allow friendly matches at home. FIFA also further postpones a decision on the World Cup exclusion of Yugoslavia after a plea from Prime Minister Milan Panic.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

ACTION: *Several competitive and friendly under-21 matches precede the World Cup action in midweek. England under-21s win 1-0 away to Spain with a late goal from new Tottenham forward Darren Anderton (right). Three players are sent off in Switzerland's 2-0 under-21 victory over Scotland. Two Swiss are sent off as well as Scotland's Darren Ferguson, son of the Manchester United manager.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ACTION: *Europe's first major World Cup day brings victories for Bulgaria (v France), Sweden (v Finland), Hungary (v Luxembourg), Northern Ireland (v Albania), Norway (ten goals v San Marino), the Irish Republic (v Latvia), Switzerland (v Scotland) and Wales (six v the Faroe Islands . . . in friendlies, Germany gain minor revenge with a 2-1 win over European champions Denmark in Copenhagen, Holland lose 3-2 at home to Italy, and Spain win 1-0 at home to England. The day's one draw is 1-1 between Poland and Israel.*

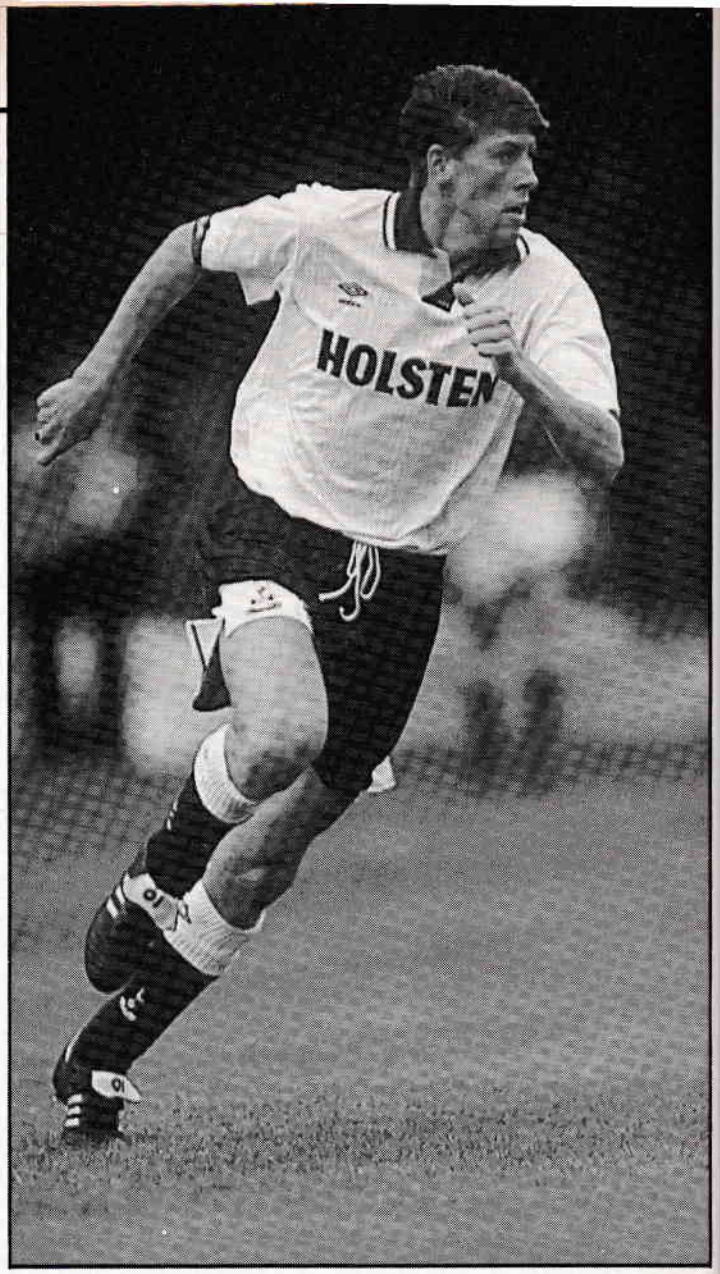
PORTUGAL: *FC Porto beat Benfica 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 extra time draw in last season's delayed Supercup replay.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says Maradona could be playing in Spain in two weeks' time.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

ITALY: *Ruud Gullit says that if Milan do not want him to play regular first-team football he will take up a long-standing offer to move to Japan.*

SPAIN: *Sevilla president Luis Cuervas says it is "99 per cent certain" that Maradona will join in the next few days.*



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

ARGENTINA/ITALY: *The FIGC fines Maradona £9,000 for critical remarks made in a television interview about Italian football authorities. In Argentina, Maradona's lawyer says he will fly to Spain on Saturday to discuss details of a transfer to Sevilla.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

ACTION: *Fiji beat Vanuatu 3-0 in a World Cup qualifier . . . German champions Stuttgart are eliminated in the second round of the Cup 2-0 in extra time by Second Division Hansa Rostock; league leaders Bayern Munich lose to Borussia Dortmund in a penalty shoot-out . . . PSV go top in Holland after a 7-0 thrashing of Den Bosch . . . Tenerife, reduced to ten men by the expulsion of goalkeeper Lopez, hit back to draw 1-1 at home to Barcelona.*

ARGENTINA: *Diego Maradona heads for Spain saying he believes "everything has been resolved" regarding his transfer from Napoli to Sevilla.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ACTION: *Three players are sent off as El Salvador beat Honduras 3-1 in a friendly to celebrate the settlement of their century-old border dispute . . . Sparta's 100 per cent start to the season in Czechoslovakia is ended as they lose 2-0 to old rivals Slavia . . . Van Basten scores a hat-trick as Milan score an astonishing 5-4 victory away to Pescara . . . Maritimo go joint top in Portugal after a hat-trick from Brazilian striker Edmilson brings a 7-1 win over Gil Vicente . . . new Chilean striker Zamorano scores twice as Real Madrid open their home campaign of the new season with a 3-0 defeat of Burgos. Rayo Vallecano, as threatened, bar reporters whose media organisations refuse to pay charges to cover their matches.*

SPAIN: *Diego Maradona arrives in Seville to a tumultuous welcome from local fans — while Napoli issue a statement denying having received any offer from Sevilla. Maradona sees Sevilla lose 3-1 home to new league leaders La Coruna.*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich say Lothar Matthaus, out of action since a knee injury in May and since then sold home by Internazionale, could make his return in the weekend game against Wattenscheid.*

SPAIN: *Maradona trains with Sevilla youth players as a further meeting to discuss his transfer, between representatives of Sevilla, Napoli and FIFA, is postponed from Tuesday until Thursday.*

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FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Weah doing well and Burruchaga is back

WHO got the best of the bargain when Monaco sold George Weah (right) to Paris Saint Germain and bought Jurgen Klinsmann from Inter?

Both have been scoring, but Klinsmann could not save Monaco from an embarrassing 4-1 defeat at Auxerre, while Weah, the following week, knocked in two more goals at Strasbourg, where PSG cruised through 4-0.

Gilbert Gress, Strasbourg's ever-outspoken manager, who had been racing up and down the touchline exhorting his team, said afterwards that you just could not stand up to such an agglomeration of talent.

Managers who frequent the touchline, or the dugout, do not always have the best view of what is going on, and the trust is that after David Ginola had set up the first goal with superb skill out on the left, PSG for a long time made heavy weather of things.

For much of the second half their defence was under pressure, and it was quite late in the game that Weah suddenly wrought havoc.

Launched

Perhaps the home team let their territorial superiority go to their heads, for when a through pass sent Weah away down the right, all he had to do was outpace one slow marker.

The fourth goal was something of a farce. Weah, on the right of the area, lost the ball to a defender, who graciously allowed him to win it back. Into the centre it went for a very soft goal. But at least it now looks as if there will be a true challenge to a Marseille team who, having let Mozer go back to Benfica, do not by any means looks impregnable. That became clear at Metz.

Nothing, however, can expunge the memory of the marvellous first goal Marseille scored there.

Pele, on the left of goal, flicked the ball up twice, then launched himself in a scissor kick which sent it speeding to the far post. There, Basile Boli, who does not always use his head at Stuart

Pearce's expense, dived to head the ball home.

Auxerre's unbeaten record went at Nantes after they had taken the lead, but they continue to find home-grown stars. Gerald Baticle, just 23, seems to be the latest. He was born in Amiens, where he began with the local club.

Guy Roux, who for so many years has kept little Auxerre humming, pays warm tribute to Jean-Claude Suadeau of Nantes, the true master when it comes to developing young talent. "He is the master, we at Auxerre are the pupils." And so it seemed that Friday evening, at Nantes.

Roux says he would like to see Baticle lose a kilo in weight, coming down from 77 to 76. Baticle, amused, says that in the course of the match against Monaco, perhaps he shed a few grams.

Daniel Bravo, once a star winger for Nice and France, has alas found himself *de trop* at PSG. The club wanted to get rid of him in order to make room for Laurent Blanc from Napoli — they had their full quota of professionals.

Bravo, though he has become the butt of the crowd, had no intention of leaving, unless one of the various clubs interested offered him terms as good as those he enjoyed in Paris.

As far as Bravo was concerned, he was prepared to stay in Paris and fight his way back into the side. In the course of a season, things could change, and he was happy with his relations with the Portuguese manager, Artur Jorge.

Jorge Burruchaga is playing first-team football again, for unfashionable Valenciennes. They picked him up at the last moment from Nantes, where his career had been a nightmare of grave injuries and operations.

Burruchaga, scorer of that cool winning goal in the World Cup Final of 1986, did at least recover to figure in a second final four years later, but since scoring that famous goal his career has been a painful anti-climax.

He still had a year left on his contract with Nantes, but not much prospect of first-team football. Going back to Argentina also was on the cards. His old club, Independiente, would have taken him back, or there might have been a deal with Boca Juniors, where a deal seemed to have been set up.

Robert Budzinski, once a French international defender, now general manager of Nantes, went to Buenos Aires, but apparently could not do business. So Burruchaga stays in France, and must do his best to keep Valenciennes in the top division.

Burruchaga feels bitter towards the previous Nantes boss, Max Bouyer, and claims to be owned around £50,000. What truly rankled with Burruchaga, and who can blame him, is the time when, after his third operation, he was asked if he would allow himself to be re-classified as an "amateur," so that Nantes could register another player. That, says Burruchaga, truly demoralised him.

When the knee, with its plastic ligament, went yet again at Bordeaux, Burruchaga admits that he felt suicidal, that he had to take sleeping pills, that if he had had a revolver he might have done away with himself. Now here he is at Valenciennes, and we can only hope that he can take wing, again.

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Litmanen goes to Ajax

FINLAND'S best young footballer, Jari Litmanen, at last made the expected move and joined Holland's Ajax Amsterdam.

Litmanen, a 21-year-old midfielder from HJK Helsinki, had been linked with foreign clubs for some time. He chose Ajax, following Petri Tiainen, who went there in the late 1980s. Both Tiainen and Litmanen originally hail from Lahti.

He is unusually dark-featured for a Finn, and has been nicknamed "Diego" by Dutch fans.

"I'm still learning this game," he says. "I've been told here to watch and learn from Dennis Bergkamp."

Finns are still rarely seen in pro soccer. Apart from Litmanen, the only current full-time players are Kari Laukkanen (Waldhof Mannheim), Mixu Paatelainen (Aberdeen), Kari Ukkonen (Antwerp), Marko Myyry and Tommy Paavola (both Lokeren).

Domestically, champions Kuusysi Lahti are blowing hot and cold. They were beaten 6-1 at home by Rovaniemi, then retaliated by crushing Kuopio PS 6-1 away.

Kuopio are the longest-surviving club at the pinnacle of Finnish football having been in the First Division since 1949. Sadly, they are now threatened by relegation.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

Danes brought down to earth

DENMARK'S reign as European champions began with a double setback. First they were held to a 0-0 draw by Latvia in a World Cup qualifier and then they lost 2-1 at home to Germany in a re-run of the Euro '92 Final.

The World Cup qualifying campaign began disastrously with a shock 0-0 draw away to newcomers Latvia.

The new European champions struggled to come to terms with a bumpy pitch in Riga and a fired-up Latvial team. Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel even had the woodwork to thank for his clean sheet. He said: "It was a difficult match for us. So often in the past we have been the underdogs. Now it was hard to be in the other role.

"Denmark has always had close ties with the Baltic states like Latvia, and I think they were extra motivated to do well against us.

Created

"But even so we should have won the match. We created enough chances, but just didn't take them."

Denmark were not helped by the enforced absence of European Championship scoring hero Henrik Larsen, who was stuck at the centre of a crazy tug-of-war between Italian club Pisa and Lyngby.

FIFA decided he could not play until the dispute was settled, eventually in Pisa's favour. In this group dropping a point to one of the minnows could prove fatal.

Goals were also hard to come by in the repeat of the European Championship final against Germany on September 9. Denmark lost 2-1 in a match played to celebrate the opening of the new Idraetsparken in Copenhagen.

Karlheinz Riedle put the Germans ahead just after half-time, but Lars Elstrup seemed to have secured a draw with a 75th minute equaliser.

But five minutes from time, the Danes' poor Autumn luck struck again. Stefan Effenburg's free-kick hit a post and then ricocheted into the goal off the helpless Schmeichel's back.

Elstrup, the former Luton striker, has at least been enjoying his season. He plays for OB Odense, who were top of the Superliga after five games. OB were promoted after just one season down in the First Division, and began with four straight wins before a draw against FC Kobenhavn.

In contrast, the other promoted side, B1909, took just one point from their first five games. B1909 were not helped by losing their bright young coach Flemming Serritslev, who became the new assistant to national boss Richard Moller Nielsen.

International defender Torben Piechnik has joined Liverpool from FC Kobenhavn in a £500,000 deal. He will link up with fellow Dane, Jan Molby.

Goran Sorloth (left) in action for Norway against Denmark's Kim Christofte.

NORWAY BY SIGURD ODEGAARD

Cup classic in prospect

A CLASSIC Cup Final is in store after Rosenborg and Lillestrom won their semi-finals.

Rosenborg and Lillestrom have been among the League leaders all season. The final marks the end of the season, and the atmosphere in a packed Ullevaal Stadium is a well-admired aspect of the country's football.

Supporters of both clubs are in for a football fiesta on October 25.

Lillestrom won their-semi-final 1-0 against Kongsvinger in front of a jubilant home crowd, Tom Gulbrandsen scoring just before the final whistle.

In a match full of thrilling action and wasted goal opportunities, the more experienced Lillestrom side had the necessary edge.

Rosenborg struggled even more against Viking, even at home before 19,000 spectators.

Goran Sorloth put them ahead, but Sander Solberg equalised in the second half.

Viking continued to keep the initiative and scored a second, only for it to be disallowed for offside. In extra time Rosenborg hit back strongly and four minutes from the end Roar Strand scored their winner.

Norway's World Cup campaign got off to a flying start with a 10-0 romp against San Marino. Oldham Athletic's Gunnar Halle scored a hat-trick, and there were two goals each for Rekdal, Sorloth and Nilsen and one for Mykland. Tottenham goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt did not have a single serious effort to save, and even went up for a corner near the end.

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

Wasseige's method seems to work

CHARLEROI were among the early pace-setters in Belgium, along with Anderlecht, Beveren and Mechelen.

Successive victories over Gent, Lierse and Ekeren brought eight goals — with only two conceded. Coach Robert Wasseige's accent on attack and fitness looked to be paying off.

Champions, Club Brugge did not start so well. They lost 1-0 at home to Standard Liege — their first win the Brugge stadium for seven years — after having Alex Querter sent off. Bettagno got the only goal, with 12 minutes left.

Anderlecht followed three straight wins with a 6-1 success away to Liege.

Promoted Lommel, who lost only five matches out of 30 in the Second Division, were beaten three times in a row and look out of the class "upstairs".

They conceded 11 goals in those three games, losing 6-1 against Lierse after Buana had put them in front.

SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Hilda hits the headlines

TOM PRAHL'S promoted Trelleborg still make news in Sweden. As the league moved into the championship stage, they were swamped 6-1 by Osters, but bounced back with an impressive 3-1 away win over IFK Gothenburg.

The day belonged to Trelleborg's 6ft 4ins forward Peter Hillgren, with two excellent goals. "Hilda" Hillgren is one of the several Malmo castaways on Trelleborg's books. He was discarded by MFF in 1990, but helped Trelleborg to promotion last season with 14 goals.

Hasse Backe's Osters are thrilling fans just now, with goals flying in at both ends. Hans Eklund, the League's top scorer, and midfielder Jan Jansson have been in great form. Norrkoping seem to have enough overall quality to win the title, but AIK Stockholm cannot be discounted. Theirs is a physical brand of football, with veterans such as Peter Larsson and Vadim Yevtushenko, the Ukrainian, providing vital know-how.

Underlined

Injuries to Jan Eriksson and Tomas Brolin are worrying national coach Tommy Svensson. And his captain, Jonas Thern, has been suffering from an old hip injury. Svensson is lucky in that Stefan Pettersson is at last producing his club form for Sweden. Pettersson's display in the 2-2 draw with Norway underlined Sweden's loss when he had to miss the European Championship finals because of an injury in last May's UEFA Cup Final.

PORTUGAL BY ALBERTO DA SILVA

Rough ride for Robson

BOBBY ROBSON'S managerial reign at Sporting Lisbon got off to a mixed start.

After the team had drawn at home against modest Tirsense and lost away to Salgueiros, they built up a 4-0 lead at home to Famalicao.

Then the visitors scored once, scored again, and scored a third. In the last minute, with Sporting in disarray, Famalicao almost scored a fourth.

This was a lucky escape for Robson, who is doing his best to blend some new players in with the old guard while talking to people who do not have much command of his language.

Robson remains optimistic, saying: "It's not September when you want to be on top — it's May."

The former England manager is keeping his head in a somewhat panic-stricken atmosphere. In Lisbon, you are expected to win every game, or else.

Boavista, Porto and Espinho set the early pace. I saw Porto in a 0-0 draw away to Belenenses, recently promoted but in command for most of the match.

The champions owed their point to a superb display by international goalkeeper Vitor Baia. Emerson, a young Brazilian recruited by Belenenses, showed up impressively in opening the opposing defence and providing chances that were not taken.

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GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Matthaus gets the message

Bayern bring him back to start a revival

Matthaus with Bayern president Fritz Scherer (left) and coach Erich Ribbeck.

THE career of Lothar Matthaus took an unexpected turn when he left Inter Milan, where he had played since 1988, and signed for his former club, Bayern Munich.

The transfer fee was officially announced as £1.3 million, but Bayern also collect a substantial proportion of receipts from two friendly matches against Inter.

The deal is remarkable given that World Cup captain Matthaus, now 31, suffered torn cruciate ligaments last April, missed the European Championship finals, and is not expected to regain full fitness till October.

Despite that, his return is welcome. Bayern sacked two managers (Jupp Heynckes and Soren Lerby), engaged two new vice-presidents (Franz Beckenbauer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge), and several new players, but finished only 10th in the Bundesliga and thus missed a European place for the first time in 14 years.

Now, under manager Erich Ribbeck, the Bavarians have made a flying start. They won their opening five Bundesliga matches, and in the Cup they thrashed Borussia Neunkirchen by 6-0, away. The fans are flocking again in large numbers — Kaiserslautern drew a full house of 64,000 to the Olympic stadium.

Steadied

While general manager Uli Hoeness pulls the financial strings, Ribbeck launched a clear-out and a buying spree. He discarded four players, including Stefan Effenberg and Brian Laudrup, for £7.3m, and engaged five for £10m.

The national team's sweeper, Thomas Helmer, and the Brazilian Jorginho have steadied the defence, while midfielders Markus Schupp and Mehmet Scholl bring fresh ideas and flair in supporting the attackers.

Bayern already had the most expensive squad in the Bundesliga and now Matthaus, the midfield dynamo who played in Munich between 1984 and 1988, will strengthen their ranks again.

"I have set myself two targets," he says. "I want to lead Bayern to the top and regain my place in the national side. It is my dream to overtake Franz Beckenbauer as the most capped German player."

Beckenbauer gained 104 caps: Matthaus has 93.

After the World Cup triumph in 1990 he won every conceivable accolade: World, European and German Footballer of the Year and World Sportsman of the Year.

He earned £700,000 a year net in Milan. In Munich part of his wages will be met by a sponsor, but he does not care that much: "I am just glad to be back to my roots."

Matthaus certainly can expect a rousing welcome from the fans when he takes the field in a Bayern shirt once more.

Helmer, the most expensive player in the Bundesliga (£2.5m from Borussia Dortmund), was bought as a libero but has been moved to midfield, while little Olaf Thon has been used as sweeper to such great effect, that Beckenbauer declared: "It is not possible to play libero better."

National team boss Beti Vogts may try Thon in that role, for Manfred Binz has completely lost form and may not keep his place in the squad.

Germany's Footballer of the Year is Thomas Hassler, though still serving Italy's AS Roma. He won 470 votes, almost half of those cast in a poll among sports journalists. Hassler, who also won the trophy in 1989, was followed by Stuttgart's captain Guido Buchwald, with 141 votes, followed by Swiss international striker Stephane Chapuisat of Borussia Dortmund on 60.

Vogts remarked: "Hassler is the epitome of attacking football. He is not satisfied just with a victory, but seeks to entertain the fans with virtuosity."

Derided

A new rule allows three foreigners to play in Bundesliga games, instead of two. There are 59 "imports" in the two top divisions, but very few of real class.

The allegations of doping in the Bundesliga turned out to be something of a storm in a tea cup.

Experts derided the story in *Bildzeitung* claiming that the Stuttgart manager, Christoph Daum, had admitted his players took dope. What Daum said was that footballers take Clenbuterol, but not to enhance their performance.

This banned substance cost sprint world champion Katrin Krabbe a four-year ban, but it is freely available on prescription to restore wasted muscles following a long lay-off through injury.

In any case the DFB have been testing regularly, but have not found any footballer on drugs. Now they are being forced to order random tests during training sessions.

Unfortunately *Bildzeitung* produced a sensational headline, Doping in the Bundesliga, but in the article Daum clearly was misquoted.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

BEENHAKKER'S NOW A HOPPER

GRASSHOPPER, Switzerland's biggest and most successful club, landed an unexpected catch when they signed Dutch team manager Leo Beenhakker (right).

He achieved great success with Ajax Amsterdam and Real Madrid (three consecutive titles) and was Holland's national boss at the 1990 World Cup.

His arrival was perfectly timed, for the Hoppers had slumped to one from bottom, without a win after eight matches, while gates plummeted to a derisory average of 4,350.

Beenhakker said on taking over: "I will not listen to any outsiders, but will study every player before making decisions about selection and tactics. Even if it takes months, my team will play the way I want."

Worked

His recipe worked, for Grasshopper beat Bulle 5-0 and moved out of the relegation zone.

Beenhakker is on £160,000 a year, plus bonuses and other perks, making him the highest-paid team chief in the country. Many are appalled at such an exorbitant salary when the club claim to be heavily in debt.

Swiss football has been through some bizarre developments this year. The two relegated clubs, Luzern and Wettingen, were replaced by two provincial outfits, Bulle and Chiasso, who draw little support.

The Cup Final was disputed by Luzern and Lugano, who were demoted to the relegation pool, and the winners, Luzern, went down.

St. Gallen (1945), Grasshopper (1949) and Thun (1955) all won the Cup and were relegated in the same season, but this is the first time that a club already destined for the Second Division had triumphed. Finals always used to be staged on Whit Monday, several weeks before the end of the League programme.

The World Cup qualifying campaign continued successfully with a 3-1 win over Scotland in Bern. Stephane Chapuisat scored twice and Georges Bregy claimed the other goal with a free kick.

Scotland captain Richard Gough was dismissed for a deliberate handball to complete a miserable 24 hours for the Scots. The night before, the Swiss also won the under-21 match where three players were dismissed, two Swiss and Darren Ferguson, son of the Manchester United manager.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

'BORDER RAIDS' TAKE A TOLL

AUSTRIAN football bemoans the continued departure of the top players, which is having a detrimental effect on gates. But the development is not new.

In the seventies the top Austrians emigrated mainly to Germany, where they had no language problems, but were paid substantially more than at home.

Recently the interest scaled down, but now three players have left the richer pastures across the border.

International midfielder Andy Herzog moved from Rapid Vienna to Werder Bremen, Mario Posch from Wacker Innsbruck to Bayer Uerdingen, and — the most surprising — Thomas Weissenberger, a 21-year-old attacking midfielder, largely unknown even in his own country, from Second Division SV Spittal to Nurnberg.

In the early matches he was a hit, and he is now hailed as a new star.

Title-holders FK Austria led the table again, just ahead of Innsbruck, Salzburg and Admira-Wacker.

The Admira team manager, Sigi Held, is banking on two fellow Germans. Uwe Muller as libero and Olaf Marschall, the striker. Internationals Ernst Ogris, Peter Artner and the Swede Roger Ljung are also on the books.

Admira's 3-1 win over FK Austria was a warning that the champions will not have an easy passage.

Rapid made the worst start in their history, under new manager Gustl Starek, but picked themselves off the floor and moved to seventh, five points behind the leaders.

Czechoslovak Vaclav Danek scored all four goals in the 4-1 thrashing of Vorwarts Steyr. His re-engagement, after a spell in France, is hailed as a master stroke.

ALBANIA BY GEZIM NUSHI

Clubs waiting for cash

CLUBS struggling for existence in strife-torn Albania are not being helped by others in Romania and Greece, who have been delaying payments for players.

Most of the leading Albanian footballers have left the country in the past two years, and many are playing abroad, but in several cases the requisite transfer fees have not gone in the opposite direction.

The Albanian Football Federation and individual clubs are trying to hurry matters along, but with little success.

The total sum involved is not far short of £250,000 — a tiny amount in some countries, but not in Albania.

Fees are still said to be outstanding for former national captain Sulejman Demollari and Ilir Bozhiqi, now with Dinamo Bucharest, Foto Straskosha (Ethnikos), Artur Lekbello and Mirel Josa (Aris) and Sokol Kushta (Iraklis).

Some money is coming into the game after economic reform, with an Italian company, ABACO, sponsoring Partizani Tirani to the tune of £20 a month per player, and the Albanian state oil concern sponsoring Puntori of Patosi, promoted to the First Division at the end of last season.

From now on the club will be known as Albpetrol.

ALBANIAN FIXTURES UPDATE

Sunday, 4 October
Tomorri v Partizani
Besa v Dinamo
SK Elbasani v Flamurtari
SK Lushnja v Sopoti
Pogradeci v Apolonia
Patosi v Laci
SK Teuta v Kastrioti
SK Tirana v Vllaznia

Sunday, 11 October
Partizani v Vllaznia
Kastrioti v SK Tirana
Laci v SK Teuta
Apolonia v Patosi
Sopoti v Pogradeci
Flamurtari v SK Lushnja
Dinamo v SK Elbasani
Tomorri v Besa

Sunday, 18 October
Besa v Partizani
SK Elbasani v Tomorri
SK Lushnja v Dinamo
Pogradeci v Flamurtari
Patosi v Sopoti
SK Teuta v Apolonia
SK Tirana v Laci
Vllaznia v Kastrioti

Sunday, 25 October
Partizani v Kastrioti
Laci v Vllaznia
Apolonia v SK Tirana
Sopoti v SK Teuta
Flamurtari v Patosi
Dinamo v Pogradeci
Tomorri v SK Lushnja
Besa v SK Elbasani

Sunday, 1 November
SK Elbasani v Partizani
SK Lushnja v Besa
Pogradeci v Tomorri
Patosi v Dinamo
SK Teuta v Flamurtari
Vllaznia v Apolonia
SK Tirana v Sopoti
Kastrioti v Laci

Thursday, 5 November
Partizani v Laci
Apolonia v Kastrioti
Sopoti v Vllaznia
Flamurtari v SK Tirana
Dinamo v SK Teuta
Tomorri v Patosi
Besa v Pogradeci
SK Elbasani v SK Lushnja

Saturday, 14 November
SK Lushnja v Partizani
Pogradeci v SK Elbasani
Patosi v Besa
SK Teuta v Tomorri
SK Tirana v Dinamo
Vllaznia v Flamurtari
Kastrioti v Sopoti
Laci v Apolonia

Sunday, 22 November
Partizani v Apolonia
Sopoti v Laci
Flamurtari v Kastrioti
Dinamo v Vllaznia
Tomorri v SK Tirana
Besa v SK Teuta
SK Elbasani v Patosi
SK Lushnja v Pogradeci

Sunday, 29 November
Pogradeci v Partizani
Patosi v SK Lushnja
SK Teuta v SK Elbasani
SK Tirana v Besa
Vllaznia v Tomorri
Kastrioti v Dinamo
Laci v Flamurtari
Apolonia v Sopoti

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Puskas back to help Jenei

FERENC PUSKAS, probably Hungary's best know celebrity, has come home and been appointed International Director of the Hungarian FA on a rolling contract.

Puskas, captain and inside-forward of Hungary's Golden Team in the 1950s, had coaching success in Greece and Australia after finishing his playing career in Spain but, because of the circumstances in which he left Hungary during the 1956 Revolution, was not able to return to live.

Puskas is delighted to be back in Hungary where he will be International Director of the Hungarian FA.

All that has been forgotten now and his special responsibilities are: to foster improved international contacts and connections, taking part in official events and programmes concerning FIFA, UEFA, and national and international sporting bodies; to improve the average level of technical aspects of Hungarian football; to study youth football, make recommendations for its improvement throughout the country, and to be responsible for the six youth national teams and three national youth coaches.

Puskas, 65, said: "I'm very happy to be home again and to work here. It's a very long time since I had official contact with the MLSZ.

"I have big plans to deal with the youth football in our country."

Puskas, who has an interest in a pasta factory in Szentendre — the business was started in Australia — will work with Imre Jenei, the national team manager, too.

Jenei, although in no way answerable to someone who scored 83 goals in 84 internationals for his country (he also played four times for Spain), will surely develop an enduring relationship with him.

Complemented

Both have outgoing personalities and Jenei's intelligence will be complemented by Puskas who, though not an educated man, has a remarkable football mind.

Sandor Berczi, general secretary of MLSZ, said "The appointment is maybe the most important thing in the last two or three years of our football. Puskas is a legend in Hungary, and in the world, and I hope he will get support from important places. Almost everybody is happy, though, of course, there are some journalists who have attacked Puskas already."

This was a reference to a press conference given by Jenei when the Hungarians were in Luxembourg for a World Cup tieh last month. Puskas, invited by Jenei to speak, asked for the support of journalists, for them not to criticise players, even if they played poorly.

Jeno Knezy, a television commentator, provoked into a reaction, was then reminded by Puskas that not only players made mistakes; did not he, too, make mistakes with microphone in hand? Did he not say silly things?

Two of a crowd of Ferencvaros "supporters" who attacked a young man were shot in the leg when they tried to attack four plain-clothes policemen at a railway station after the Ujpest-Ferencvaros game, which ended 0-0. Fradi's Peter Lipcsei was sent off.

Jozsef Verebes, returning to his former club MTK as manager of Kispest-Honved, saw three of his players sent off — Gabor Marton, Jozsef Csabo and Istvan Varago. MTK lost 2-1, and the winners had Janos Talapa and Ferenc Hamori dismissed.

Seven managers new to the First Division appeared on opening day, hard-up officials voting for the cheapest option. The happiest? Istvan Sandor, whose Diosgyor team beat BVSC-Novep 1-0 in Budapest on his 46th birthday.

Attracted

Promoted Nyiregyhaza attracted 16,000 to the 1-1 draw with Ujpest, Miklos Drobni being the only player to have previous experience in the top flight.

At Bekescsaba the home team drew 2-2 with Kispest-Honved even after Tamas Baji, the home team's goalkeeper, was sent off after half an hour.

UTE were without Denes Eszenyi, their best forward, who joined Belgium's Mechelen but injured a knee in training after his debut and needed an operation.

Ferenc Orosz, back at Kispest, also required an operation, on an ankle.

Kispest lost 1-0 to Ferencvaros in the Nepstadion but Diosgyor's 2-1 home win over Vac was the most interesting result of the early season.

Hungary, uncharacteristically, recovered from trailing to beat Ukraine 2-1 at Nyiregyhaza, Tibor Nagy scoring in the last minute. Jenei's team beat Luxembourg 3-0 in the second World Cup qualifying group match.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

Papin off to a grumpy start

Milan's French striker, Jean-Pierre Papin, has already beaten all foreign player records in Italy !

Put simply, never has a newly arrived foreigner taken such a short time to start complaining about Italy, his new club and his new coach.

Normally, freshly embarked stranieri learn to put up with a variety of environmental and circumstancial problems, without as much as saying "boo".

Papin, however, is different. The season was less than 48 hours old before he was complaining to the French press. Papin, who had been substituted just after half time in both Milan's opening 1-0 league win against Foggia and in their Super Cup (Charity Shield equivalent) win against Parma one week previously, made it clear to his press compatriots that he was not happy with the situation, saying: "I came to Milan to play. I certainly didn't pick Milan just to play 45 minutes every now and then."

Those who openly questioned the wisdom of the Milan decision to keep six foreigners in their squad, despite the knowledge that only three of them could ever play in any specific league or Italian Cup match, could only quietly chuckle at Papin's remarkable outburst.

In truth, the foreign player situation at Milan is tense. Papin might feel hard done by, because of two successive substitutions, but how are Ruud Gullit, Dejan Savicevic and Zvonimir Boban, all dropped for the opening 1-0 home win against Foggia, meant to feel ?

Gullit, inevitably, was the first to complain, arguing that, after all he had done for Milan, he deserved better treatment. Furthermore, he accused his club boss, president Silvio Berlusconi, of wanting to introduce an "American" ideology to European soccer by putting together talented players and then forcing them to compete for team places.

Gullit probably had not been helped by the words of team-mate Savicevic, who in the week prior to the seasonal kick off told reporters that he had signed for Milan, only because he had been assured that Gullit would be sold to another club.

Meanwhile, another of the Milan foreigners, Dutchman Marco Van Basten who along with compatriot Frank Rijkaard is currently regarded as an "untouchable", watched all of this and worried:

"In the squad there is a lot of tension, particularily in Papin, Savicevic and Gullit who all, for one reason or another, feel themselves always under scrutiny.

"The big danger of this is that, sooner or later, each one of them when he plays will start to play just for himself and not the team because he will want to show up well."

The rest of the Serie A is probably breathing a huge sigh of relief. Given the miserable seasonal starts by such as Juventus (0-0 away to Cagliari), Napoli (0-0 at home to Brescia), Inter (2-1 away loss to Udinese) and Roma (1-0 home loss to Pescara), it would already seem that the only thing which can stop Milan this season, as last, is Milan itself.

The overall strength of Milan could not have been more clearly underlined than in Italy's remarkable 3-2 away win against Holland in a friendly played in Eindhoven last month.

By the end of an entertaining game, no less than 10 Milan players had featured.

Curiously too, and just to make life even more complicated for Milan coach Fabio Capello, arguably the best Italian on the night had been Stefano Eranio, yet another player unable to command a regular first team place with Milan.

None of which, however, bothered Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi whose post-match sense of relief was only too obvious.

Having been 0-2 down after only 20 minutes, thanks to defensive errors prompted largely by the injury-enforced absence of captain Franco Baresi (yet another Milan player), Italy stormed back to give their best performance under Sacchi with Eranio, Roberto Baggio and Gianluca Vialli getting the goals which set up the Italians nicely for their forthcoming World Cup campaign.

"I have to admit that this was the best performance by Italy under me.

"We reacted really well after having gone two goals down, we didn't lose our heads and, above all, we kept playing good soccer," said Sacchi.

Following a miserable ten months in which Sacchi's Italy struggled against such as Norway (1-1 home draw), Cyprus (2-0 home win), Portugal (0-0 draw in US) and the US (1-1 away draw), the win over Holland was badly needed.

Federation President Antonio Matarrese immediately and triumphantly concluded that the Dutch win was proof that finally the Italian squad was assimilating Sacchi's attack based and possession oriented, non-Italian game.

YUGOSLAVIA BY MLADEN BILIC

Struggling on amid the ruins

THE LAST Yugoslav championship was played without the clubs from Croatia and Slovenia. This one began without the teams from Bosnia-Hercegovina and Macedonia which left only the representatives of Serbia and Montenegro in a very isolated league.

Just as the championship was to kick off UN sanctions were imposed upon Yugoslavia prohibiting international sporting competitions for Yugoslav clubs and national teams. This meant that the regular annual exodus of Yugoslav players to foreign clubs assumed gigantic proportions.

Here is what happened to Red Star Belgrade's Champions' Cup and World Club Cup winners: Savicevic (Milan), Pancev (Inter), Mihajlovic (Roma), Jugovic (Sampdoria) are some of Red Star's players who ended up in Italy.

As the Yugoslav season started the last one from the Champions' Cup-winning team, Ilija Najdoski signed for Spanish side Valladolid and coach Vladica Popovic received an offer he could not refuse from Peru's FA.

Red Star are still favourites to win the championship and they are trying to woo the fans back by signing their old captain Dragan Stojkovic, whose foreign career never got off the ground in Marseille and Verona.

This season will be a chance for young players to prove themselves, and the same goes for a number of clubs. Red Star, Partizan, Vojvodinga, Radnicki Nis, Belgrade, Napredak and Rad have all played in European competitions and together with traditionally tough Montenegrin clubs Buducnost and Sutjeska they will form the backbone of the new Yugoslav league.

Some clubs such as Becej and Mogren do not belong to the First Division. Politics will unfortunately influence this competition too. Pristina from the largely Albanian populated region of Kosovo were faced with a strike by Albanian players who support independence for Kosovo. Now Pristina are composed of mainly Serb and Muslim players.

Following the first three rounds of the championship Red Star and Partizan are firmly on top but it is surprising to see Kikinda just behind them.

This team from a town in northern Serbia spent wisely in the transfer market and blended young and very experienced players, mostly veteran internationals who decided to make a Yugo comeback following spells with foreign clubs.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

AEK ATHENS and Vasilis Dimitriadis have started off the 1992-93 Greek First Division campaign just as they finished the previous season — winning and scoring goals.

Defending champions AEK have garnered two quick victories to start off this season, over Aris (1-0) and Athinaikos (5-1) and Dimitriadis scored four times against Athinaikos to take the initial lead in the league scoring race where he finished top last season.

With the new point system introduced in Greece this season (three points for a win and one for a draw) AEK sit top of the league table on six points along with Olympiakos and Doxa Drama.

A balanced scoring attack led Olympiakos to its 4-1 triumph at Edessaikos in its second match of the season. A week earlier Olympiakos won at home 1-0 over Iraklis thanks to a goal by Oleg Protasov and excellent goaltending by George Mirtsos in front of 27,000 fans.

Doxa are the surprise team so far with their two victories, the first a 2-0 win at home against Apollon and the second a 5-3 away victory against Korinthos.

This year's Super Cup — champions AEK Athens against Cup-winners Olympiakos — before the start of the season was won by Olympiakos 3-1 in front of 40,000 spectators at the Athens Olympic Stadium.

Meanwhile, the Greek national team started off its 1992-1993 playing season with an embarrassing 3-2 home loss to Cyprus.

MALTA BY DOMENICO AQUILINA

NEWLY-PROMOTED Mellieha got off to a dream debut by defeating Malta's FA Trophy holders, Hamrun Spartans, 2-1.

Expertly guided from the bench by player-coach Denis Fenech — a former Valletta and Malta international and on the field by Hungarians, Sandor Varga and Attila Szonye, the team from the picturesque village of Mellieha took an unexpected lead after 50 minutes through newcomer Richard Beerman.

Joe Brincat equalised five minutes later, only for substitute Sandro Cutajar to score a dramatic winner.

Champions Valletta began with a 2-0 win over a depleted Rabat Ajax side, with goals from Brazilian Osnir Populin and Joe Zarb.

Valletta have strengthened their side with the arrival of 23-year-old Albanian international defender Edmond Lufi from SK Tirana.

Hamburn's new Argentinian trio, Mario Gorla, Miguel Corbalan and Cesar Paiber, have not settled down in their new surroundings, even though they helped the club to trounce Valletta 4-1 in the pre-season Euro Cup (contested by the clubs representing Malta in Europe).

Birkirkara have a Bulgarian duo, player-coach Todor Raykov and Alexei Ivanov. Floriana have recruited Irish striker Brian Crawley, and Hibernian have a Danish striker, Karl Zacchau, and former England international Brian Talbot as new team manager.

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Dutch quartet leads a switch to offence

UNTIL Diego Maradona's over-publicised arrival in Seville, Spanish cupboards looked pretty bare in terms of new additions to the star system. The talk in the tapas bars was not so much about players as about tactics.

While most teams have now gravitated towards the flexible 5-3-2 system introduced by John Toshack at Real Sociedad in 1985, there are two significant returns to the tried, if not always trusted, 4-4-2: Real Madrid and the Spanish national team.

Hearteningly, many of the stirrings in the blackboard jungle have laid foundations for a more attacking approach, with the Dutch quartet of Johan Cruyff, Guus Hiddink, Theo Vonk and Bert Jacobs in the vanguard.

Vonk, having taken over a Burgos side who never even exposed caution to the wind, stated his intentions with a 4-0 thrashing of a strangely off-key Real Sociedad, but was then rapped over the knuckles for a carefree approach in the Bernabeu stadium where Real, but for the woodwork and fine goalkeeping by Elduayen, could have tripled their 3-0 win.

Jacobs, taking over a Gijon side upset by striker Monchu's sale to Sevilla, is struggling to build a competitive team. But Toshack was cheesed off with the Dutch when Sporting visited San Sebastian and emerged as 2-1 winners over a Real Sociedad side fast becoming renowned for spectacularly poor starts to the season.

Slated

Cruyff, in the meantime, was playing the Dutch uncle at Barcelona. After the 1-1 draw in Tenerife, he slated Michael Laudrup and Hristo Stoichkov for their contributions in attack, and was so angry with the Bulgarian that he wiped his name off the squad for Barcelona's opening fixture against Viking Stavanger in their defence of the Champions' Cup.

Josep Guardiola, the Olympic gold medallist who played a pivotal role in last season's proceedings, appeared for only 40 minutes in the opening two fixtures and, after showing his disgust at being replaced against Real Madrid, was left out against Tenerife.

Barcelona, despite opening the scoring with a Bakero header and saving Catalan face with Stoichkov's 88th-minute winner, were outplayed. Real, almost by accident, produced football vastly superior to their pre-season offerings.

Benito Floro's painful introduction of 4-4-2 at Real, with a flat back four, suffered a setback when Brazilian centre-back Ricardo Rocha had a recurrence of an ankle injury during the warm-up. Chendo, right-back since 1983, filled the gap while Manolo Sanchis, centre-back since 1983, remained at right-back.

Until Chendo was carried off with a

dislocated elbow in the 17th minute, the duo had done much to question Floro's decision to reverse their roles. Then Sanchis was switched back to his familiar role, left-winger Paco Llorente was installed at right-back, and the Real show finally hit the road.

Cruyff (above) was so disappointed that he made radical changes for the following game against Tenerife, a team moulded into an attractive ball-playing outfit by the former Real Madrid and Argentina striker Jorge Valdano.

On a newly-sown pitch, prepared to sabotage technical niceties, Cruyff opted to give five players individual marking missions, with midfielder Eusebio at left-back and Ronald Koeman sweeping. Uncharacteristically, Barcelona surrendered in midfield and took Tenerife's very flat back four apart with the long ball.

The fact that Beguiristain, in the 10th minute, was the only one to exploit five one-against-one situations with goalkeeper Manolo was ultimately to prove the undoing of Cruyff's unusually pragmatic and prosaic approach. Manolo was sent off for bringing down Stoichkov ten minutes before time and, with the two changes already made, Valdano had to give the gloves to defender Torrecilla.

Barcelona relaxed, sure that the two points were in the bag, and allowed substitute Pier to poke home an equaliser in the next attack.

Stoichkov had gained Cruyff's wrath by spending the evening arguing with opponents, linesmen, team-mates and the crowd, while Laudrup was understandably out of sync in a long-ball game where he found little close support and few options for telling passes.

Three days earlier the Spanish national team also had taken a significant step towards long-ball soccer in Javier Clemente's debut on the bench. He boldly fielded a flat back four composed of players whose joint experience totalled seven caps. Three of them — Lopez, Solozabal and Toni — are from Atletico Madrid, with Barcelona's Ferrer at right-back. None operates in a flat back four at his club.

Vizcaino and Amor were used to anchor the midfield, leaving Michel and Martin Vazquez to operate on the flanks, with new skipper Bakero accompanying Espanol striker Fonseca up front.

A sympathetic linesman and an inept performance by an English side unable to exploit Spain's defensive inexperience allowed Clemente's 4-4-2 to make an encouraging debut, although he admits there is much to be done as soon as he can get his squad together for any length of time.

The surprises in Clemente's first list were the exclusions of Butragueno and Sanchis and the inclusion of Michel, the man thought to have been at the top of Clemente's hit-list. But Michel, the only Real Madrid player in Spain's starting line-up, has flourished in the 4-4-2 systems employed by club and country.

Exasperated

Ironically, he always has been exasperated by opponents who have adopted similar systems, notably Terry Venables's Barcelona and Arrigo Sacchi's Milan. Now, with the boot on the other foot as it were, he has enjoyed a renaissance at the age of 29.

Michel, claims: "I suddenly feel as though I'm a more complete footballer. I'm happy with my game. The work in 4-4-2 is more intensive and one has to dedicate more effort to protecting the flank.

"On the other hand the amount of ground you have to cover is much less, so players can dedicate their intensive efforts into attacking areas, where you can do a lot of damage. It is still early to make definitive judgments about Real Madrid or about Spain, but I feel we are on the right track and I have started to enjoy my football again."

This is where Cruyff — and Laudrup for that matter, feel that Barcelona have fallen short in their early-season performances.

"As European champions," says Cruyff, "we have to accept that our playing system has been subjected to close scrutiny by other clubs. So we have to look for variations.

"I'm not talking about changing our style, because I maintain that respecting our own style and trying to enjoy our football is the important thing.

"But we are capable of dominating Europe if we manoeuvre with two or three tactical variants so that, if things are not working out during a particular match, we can make adjustments."

REPUBLIC of IRELAND

FA help with lights

ALL League of Ireland clubs will soon have floodlights — thanks to the Football Association across the water.

The FA have agreed to pay the FAI £1.5 million to compensate League of Ireland clubs for BSkyB's coverage of FA Premier League games.

Under UEFA rules the FAI could have blocked the live transmission of games. They invoked the UEFA rule several times last season when Sky Sports planned to show Scottish games which clashed with League of Ireland fixtures.

Only five of the 22 League of Ireland clubs — Bohemians, Derry City, Dundalk, Shelbourne and University College — have proper floodlights. The FAI have not yet decided how the money will be divided, but the 17 clubs without lights are likely to get the cash, which will enable them to switch home games to Fridays and avoid a clash with football on the satellite station.

Further good news for the FAI: a group of business people plan to build a 40,000 all-seat stadium in Clondalkin, southwest Dublin.

The developers hope that the FAI eventually would stage home games there.

The Association have an agreement with the Irish Rugby Union to use Lansdowne Road until 1996 and the IRFU have recently got the go ahead for floodlights there.

The ground is proving to be a lucky venue for John Aldridge. He got his second hat-trick at Lansdowne, in the 4-0 win over Latvia, to bring his World Cup total to six and break an Irish record set 58 years ago.

Paddy Moore became the first player in World Cup history to score four goals in a game against Belgium in February 1934, and got his fifth goal against Holland two months later. Frank Stapleton equalled that record, but now Aldridge has the record himself.

SEAN **CREEDON**

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

BAD START FOR MACALA

AFTER a friendly draw with the Austrians in Bratislava, a poor start to World Cup preparation, the result against Belgium was just what Czech manager Macala did not want.

Belgium went top of group four with maximum points after their 2-1 win in the Strahov, in front of a disappointing crowd of 9,000. Cynics, especially Slovaks, say that the game should have ben played in Bratislava, where the national team rarely lose, and where a much better crowd could have been expected, but it is not much use crying over spilt slivovitz.

Kadlec's equaliser after 77 minutes looked to have saved a point, but the recalled Czerniatynski gave the Belgians the points with the winner seven minutes from the end. Now there will be an uphill struggle to qualify. In the League, Slovan continued where they left off. On the first day Dubovsky scored one and made two in the 3-1 defeat of Nitra in front of 13,601 spectators. Surprisingly there were even more at Hradec to see Sparta take the points from their fellow Czechs.

Urbanek gave the home side the lead, Mistr equalised on the half-time whistle and Bilek completed the scoring after 70 minutes.

Vitkovice and Dunajska Streda had useful away wins and support was encouraging, with the possible exception of the crowd for the Prague derby between Bohemians and Dukla, a 1-1 draw.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

LECH POZNAN, the champions, will take some stopping. A month into the new campaign they still had to drop a point in the 18-strong League with Ruch Chorzow and Widzew Lodz as the main challengers.

Lech's 3-1 win over GKS Katowice was particularly impressive. Szewczyk's opening goal was a false dawn and Lech turned things round in the second half with goals by Rzepka, Trzeciak and Araszkiewicz.

Chorzow's revival will be welcome after some modest seasons. Gilewicz, the leading scorer, troubled both the Pogon and Wisla defences in the opening matches.

He looks a real prospect since coming from GKS Tychy and could be knocking on the "Klub Polska" door, especially after the goalless draw with Finland in Jakobstad.

Third-placed Widzew look to have the makings of a good season.

BULGARIA Penev goes scouting

WHILE Bulgaria were playing a friendly in Turkey and contriving to lose after Stoilov had given them the lead, national coach Dimitar Penev was running an eye over the French against Brazil.

The side in Trabzon only contained home-based players less those of CSKA, who were participating in the Juan Gamper competition in Barcelona, but plus those earning their money with Turkish clubs.

Penev's assistant, Borissov, was pleased with three young players introduced — Vidolov (Lok. Plovdiv), Stoilov (Fenerbahce) and Iliev (Levski) — despite the reverse.

Penev and Stoichkov had had a row after the friendly with Mexico, when the star man missed a penalty but he will play in the World Cup.

He had been upset by the crowd getting at him in the Levski Stadium and the preferential treatment he claimed Penev was giving his nephew who plays for Valencia.

All is now well thanks to the intervention of Bulgarian Football Union President Larjov, who personally confirmed Stoichkov's invitation to join the World Cup squad.

In the League Levski, as expected, were the early pacemakers, helped by an away win at Haskovo, who have slipped to the bottom without a point.

CSKA and Lok. drew in the Sofia Derby, the former dropping their first point.

ROMANIA Resita's mixed return

CSM Resita started with a bang on their return to the top flight after 12 years.

Inter Sibiu did not know what had hit them and went in three down at the interval. Resita finally won 3-2, but it was a different story the following week at Constanta, where Farul put three past the "upstarts" without reply.

In their third game Resita could only draw 1-1 at home to Bistrita, but it is early days and difficult to say whether the club will be able to maintain a foothold in Division "A".

Fellow promotees, "U" Clu and Progresul Bucharest, also began well with a home win over Brasov (1-0) and a home draw (2-2) with Farul respectively.

Former "U" Craiova star and journalist Aurel Ticleanu may not be pleased with his charges at Otelul Galati. They began by holding Steaua 1-1 at home, but heavy reverses follows at Craiova against "U" and at Ploiesti.

ESTONIA BY MARCUS LUIK

Norma's early exit

NORMA TALLINN became the first Estonian club ever to take part in a European competition when they played Olimpija of Slovenia in the Champions' Cup qualifying round.

Unfortunately there was an early exit for the Estonians, who lost 3-0 in Ljubljana and 2-0 at home.

Missed

Tremendous heat was a possible excuse in the first game, but the team played poorly in the cold and rain of Tallinn. Goalkeeper Tynu Vanakesa was the exception.

In the domestic championship, VMV Tallinn went to the top with six successive victories, 19 goals scored and only two conceded, but had yet to play any of the other leading clubs.

Flora, with a basis of internationals, had a mixed start and missed Lembit Rajala, injured again after recovering from two knee operations.

The national team lost 4-1 to a German amateur selection despite having the greater number of chances.

The only newcomer in the team, 19-year-old Alexander Olerski from Vigri Tallinn, did well and created the Estonian goal, but was injured and missed the second half.

Coach Uno Piir looks to have a lot of problems in choosing his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Malta on October 25.

BOSNIA BY MLADEN BILIC

Prisoners, not fans

EVEN though the war is raging in all parts of Bosnia, football manages to survive in some parts of this former Yugoslav republic.

Most football stadiums are used by all three warring sides as detention camps but occasionally they serve their original purpose. Last month a UN protection force team played a Muslim selection in an indoor soccer match in Sarajevo.

The ethnic division of Bosnia-Hercegovina will eventually result in different soccer associations and competitions as it is hard to imagine the protagonists of such a bloody civil war playing together in a same team or league.

One such association was formed on 5th September in Banjaluka. Some 400 clubs from Bosnian Serb regions enlisted themselves in the Football Association of the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Immediately after the new association was created a soccer match was played amidst the raging civil war at Banjaluka City stadium. In front of some 5,000 spectators a team from Bosnian Krajina defeated a team from another Serb region, Semberija, 4-0.

The victors of this match received a trophy from the first president of the Football Association of the Serb Republic, Branko Lazarevic.

It is interesting to see what happened to former Yugoslav First Division club Borac from Banjaluka. They decided to stay in the Yugoslav League even though the Yugoslav FA now covers only the territory of Serbia and Montenegro.

Borac decided to register themselves in Belgrade and to change the name of the club into Borac Belgrade so that they could play in Yugoslavia while the war in Bosnia is going on.

Red Star Belgrade decided to help Borac in all possible ways and the Yugoslav FA will try to help Borac enter the new Yugoslav First Division, if not in this season then in the next one.

SLOVENIA

UNLIKE Croatian and Yugoslav clubs, Slovenian First Division teams are participating in European competitions this year — Olimpija in the Champions' Cup and Maribor Branik in the Cup-winners' Cup.

These Euro-qualifiers were the focus of attention of the fans and the newly-launched 18-member Slovenian First Division was less attractive.

Interested

After four games Olimpija were at the top, followed by Nafta, from Lendava. Maribor, the only other Slovenian club with resources to match Olimpija, were third.

Slovenians were never greatly interested in football, so all the cubs had to rely heavily on players from Croatia, Yugoslavia and Bosnia. Many Bosnian immigrants work in Slovenia and they are the most numerous on the terraces and among the financial backers of the game in this country, traditionally more concerned with winter sports.

Olimpija and Maribor brought in many foreigners for this season, including former Sarajevo and Zeljezincar libero Edin Hadzialagic, now in charge of Olimpija's defence.

CROATIA

THE beginning of the first real Croatian championship was still marred by the threat of war in some parts of the country. Dubrovnik and Vinkovci cannot play their home games at their stadiums as they are too near the frontlines.

Apart from this there were not too many exciting developments at the start of this competition. The stadiums were empty as the fans found it hard to adapt to starless teams, many of which never dreamed they would find themselves in the same division as Hask-Gradjanski and Hajduk Split.

However several factors could save the interest in the Croatian championship. One of them is the resurgence of rivalry between the two Zagreb clubs, Hask Gradjanski and Zagreb, who are currently top of the league after three rounds.

The other factor is the rivalry of clubs from the Croatian adriatic coast — Hajduk, Rijeka, Sibenik, Zadar and Dubrovnik. Fans in this part of the country are the staunchest soccer supporters in Croatia and they have always felt that more of their clubs, with a Mediterranean flavour, should be participating in the top grade.

LATVIA Champions held to a draw

A 0-0 DRAW with European champions Denmark was received with much celebration in Latvia, but the ultra-defensive display won few admirers.

As Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel said: "It's impossible to play football against a team who don't want to play."

Latvia's reinforced defence coped well, with goalkeeper Oleg Karavayevs outstanding. The match in Riga, drew a crowd of 9,000.

Skonto Riga got through their Champions' Cup tie against Klaksvikar of the Faroes and led the table as well, with 28 points from 17 games.

Raf Yelgava were second, two points behind with a game in hand and only four goals conceded. At the bottom, Dilars Ilukste had only one point and Starts Broceni two.

Results

1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Malta, Estonia.

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland 0-6
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland 3-1
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta
19.12.92 Malta v Italy
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy
24.03.93 Italy v Malta
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia

GROUP 2

England, Holland, Poland, Norway, Turkey, San Marino.

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino 10-0
23.09.92 Norway v Holland
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway
14.10.92 England v Norway
14.10.92 Holland v Poland
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino
18.11.92 England v Turkey
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland
17.02.93 England v San Marino
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino
31.03.93 Turkey v England
28.04.93 England v Holland
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland
29.05.93 Poland v England
02.06.93 Norway v England
09.06.93 Holland v Norway
08.09.93 England v Poland
22.09.93 Norway v Poland
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland
13.10.93 Holland v England
13.10.93 Poland v Norway
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway
16.11.93 San Marino v England
17.11.93 Poland v Holland

GROUP 3

Spain, Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia.

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania 2-0
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania 1-0
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania 1-2
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark 0-0
09.09.92 Rep. of Ireland v Latvia 4-0
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania 3-0
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v Northern Ireland
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia
22.09.93 Albania v Spain
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain
17.11.93 Northern Ireland v Rep. of Ireland
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep. of Ireland	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
N. Ireland	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Lithuania	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Spain	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Albania	4	1	0	3	1	8	2
Denmark	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Latvia	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

GROUP 4

Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Wales, Cyprus, Faroe Islands.

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium 0-3
18.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus 0-2
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 1-2
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands 6-0
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia
18.11.92 Wales v Belgium
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania
02.01.93 Cyprus v Belgium
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia
31.03.93 Belgium v Wales
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus
17.11.93 Wales v Romania
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
Romania	2	2	0	0	12	1	4
Wales	2	1	0	1	7	5	2
Cyprus	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Faroe Islands	4	0	0	4	0	18	0

GROUP 5

Russia, Yugoslavia*, Hungary, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg.

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland 1-2
02.09.92 Iceland v Yugoslavia* — postponed
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary 0-3
23.09.92 Yugoslavia* v Russia
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece
14.10.92 Russia v Iceland
14.10.92 Hungary v Yugoslavia*
28.10.92 Russia v Luxembourg
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary
15.11.92 Luxembourg v Yugoslavia*
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece
31.03.93 Yugoslavia* v Luxembourg
14.04.93 Luxembourg v Russia
28.04.93 Russia v Hungary
28.04.93 Yugoslavia v Greece
20.05.93 Russia v Greece
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland
02.06.93 Iceland v Russia
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary
22.08.93 Yugoslavia* v Iceland
08.09.93 Hungary v Russia
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg
06.10.93 Russia v Yugoslavia*
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece
27.10.93 Greece v Yugoslavia*
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg
17.11.93 Greece v Russia
17.11.93 Yugoslavia* v Hungary

** Yugoslavia have been suspended from all international soccer by FIFA until further notice. The position in this group has yet to be decided.*

GROUP 6

France, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel.

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France 2-0
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden 0-1
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria
14.10.92 France v Austria
28.10.92 Austria v Israel
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden
14.11.92 France v Finland
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria
17.02.93 Israel v France
27.03.93 Austria v France
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria
28.04.93 France v Sweden
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel
13.05.93 Finland v Austria
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel
16.06.93 Finland v Israel
22.08.93 Sweden v France
25.08.93 Austria v Finland
08.09.93 Finland v France
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden
13.10.93 France v Israel
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland
27.20.93 Israel v Austria
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden
10.11.93 Israel v Finland
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

Algeria, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi.

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi
11.10.92 Ghana v Uganda
24.10.92 Uganda v Algeria
25.10.92 Burundi v Ghana
20.12.92 Burundi v Uganda
20.12.92 Ghana v Algeria
16.01.93 Uganda v Ghana
17.01.93 Burundi v Algeria
29.01.93 Algeria v Uganda
31.01.93 Ghana v Burundi
26.02.93 Algeria v Ghana
27.02.93 Uganda v Burundi

GROUP B

Cameroon, Zaire, Liberia, Swaziland.

11.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland
11.10.92 Zaire v Liberia
25.10.92 Liberia v Cameroon
25.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire
20.12.92 Swaziland v Liberia
20.12.92 Zaire v Cameroon
17.01.93 Swaziland v Cameroon
17.01.93 Liberia v Zaire
31.01.93 Cameroon v Liberia
31.01.93 Zaire v Swaziland
28.02.93 Cameroon v Zaire
28.02.93 Liberia v Swaziland

GROUP C

Egypt, Zimbabwe, Togo, Angola.

11.10.92 Egypt v Angola
11.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo
25.10.92 Angola v Zimbabwe
25.10.92 Togo v Egypt
20.12.92 Angola v Togo
20.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt
17.01.93 Angola v Egypt
17.01.93 Togo v Zimbabwe
31.01.93 Egypt v Togo
31.01.93 Zimbabwe v Angola
28.02.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe
28.02.93 Togo v Angola

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

GROUP D

Nigeria, Congo, Libya, South Africa.

10.10.92 Nigeria v South Africa
11.10.92 Congo v Libya
23.10.92 Libya v Nigeria
25.10.92 South Africa v Congo
20.12.92 Congo v Nigeria
20.12.92 South Africa v Libya
15.01.93 Libya v Congo
17.01.93 South Africa v Nigeria
30.01.93 Nigeria v Libya
31.01.93 Congo v South Africa
26.02.93 Libya v South Africa
27.02.93 Nigeria v Congo

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew.*

GROUP E

Ivory Coast, Sudan, Niger, Botswana.

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana
10.10.92 Sudan v Niger
25.10.92 Botswana v Sudan
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast
19.12.92 Sudan v Ivory Coast
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast
17.01.93 Niger v Sudan
30.01.93 Sudan v Botswana
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger
28.02.93 Ivory Coast v Sudan
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana

GROUP F

Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Benin.

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin
28.03.93 Benin v Ethiopia
28.03.93 Morocco v Tunisia

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

GROUP G

Senegal, Gabon, Mozambique, Mauritania.

10.10.92 Senegal v Mauritania
11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique
23.10.92 Mauritania v Gabon
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal
18.12.92 Mauritania v Mozambique
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal
15.02.93 Mauritania v Senegal
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique
31.01.93 Gabon v Mauritania
27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon
28.02.93 Mozambique v Mauritania

GROUP H

Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Namibia.

10.10.92 Zambia v Tanzania
11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia
24.10.92 Tanzania v Madagascar
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia
19.12.92 Tanzania v Namibia
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia
16.01.93 Tanzania v Zambia
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia
31.01.93 Madagascar v Tanzania
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar
28.02.93 Namibia v Tanzania

★ *Burkina Faso withdrew, Namibia replaced them.*

GROUP I

Kenya, Guinea, Mali.

11.10.92 Guinea v Mali
25.10.92 Mali v Kenya
20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya
17.01.93 Mali v Guinea
30.01.93 Kenya v Mali
27.02.93 Kenya v Guinea

★ *Gambia withdrew*

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Winners of Group A play (home & away) against winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
25.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
25.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent & Grenadines v Cuba*

** Cuba withdrew.*

St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
25.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0

Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round

CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1

El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd round

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
05.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica 1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago 1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1

Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd round

Second Round

GROUP A:

Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica and St Vincent.

GROUP B:

Canada, Bermuda, El Salvador and Jamaica.

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador
06.12.92 Jamaica v Canada
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● ***Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/South America play-off for a place in the finals.***

GROUP A

Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B

Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

08.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● ***The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.***

GROUP 1

Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Australia

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	7	1	6
Soiomon Islands	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Tahiti	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

GROUP 2

New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu.

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	15	1	6
Fiji	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Vanuatu	3	0	0	3	1	15	0

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● ***The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) one mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.***

First Round

GROUP A

China, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan,

GROUP B

Iran, Syria, Oman, Taiwan, Myanmar (formerly Burma).

GROUP C

North Korea, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia.

GROUP D

South Korea, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Lebanon, India.

GROUP E

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Macao.

GROUP F

United Arab Emirates, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.

RESULTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

Results

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 26

AUSTRIA Weekend

Linzer ASK 2 (Luks 50, Keglevits 77), **Vorwarts Steyr 2** (Niederbacher 21, 33). **Att:** 10,000.
Rapid Wien 1 (Griga 67), **Wlener SC 2** (Dallos 38, Janesitz 86). **Att:** 6,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 4 (Danek 9, 72, Westerthaler 21, Been 56), **Sturm Graz 0.** **Att:** 7,000.
St Polten 1 (Milewski 90), **Austria Wien 3** (Pfeffer 35, Stoger 70, Zsak 78). **Att:** 4,000.
VfB Modling 4 (Wurz 41, Brankovic 54, Zisser 85, Nikser 86), **Admira Wacker 1** (Muller 51). **Att:** 2,000.
Austria Salzburg 4 (Jurcevic 27, 65, 89, Pfeiffenberger 40), **Stahl Linz 0.** **Att:** 11,000.

SWITZERLAND Midweek

FC Zurich 0, Sion 1 (Hottiger 80). **Att:** 4,700.
FC Aarau 1 (Alexandrov 90), **Young Boys 1** (Bregy pen 31). **Att:** 3,200.
Servette 2 (Anderson de Silva pen 28, Sinval 89), **Chiasso 0.** **Att:** 3,500.
Lugano 1 (Galvao 4), **Bulle 1** (Hartmann 69). **Att:** 3,500.
Lausanne Sports 0, St Gallen 0. **Att:** 5,500.
Neuchatel Xamax 3 (Smajic pen 11, Cravero 31, Chassot 47), **Grasshopper 3** (Elber 44, 86, Dinel 53). **Att:** 11,200.

Weekend

Grasshopper 2 (Gamperle 10, Elber 76), **FC Aarau 3** (Komornicki 15, Heldmann 47, Ghadamian 60). **Att:** 4,500.
Sion 1 (Tulio 14), **Servette 1** (O. Rey 80). **Att:** 11,000.
Young Boys 2 (Bregy pen 4, Streun 11), **Lugano 3** (Galvao 58, Pelosi 63, Zuffi 80). **Att:** 6,100.
Chiasso 1 (Sahin 36), **Lausanne Sports 1** (Beguin 83). **Att:** 2,300.
Bulle 2 (Hartmann 4, Bodonyi 62), **Neuchatel Xamax 2** (Froidevaux 19, Chassot 58). **Att:** 5,200.
St Gallen 1 (Thuler 11), **FC Zurich 1** (Mazzarelli 81). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

AUSTRIA Midweek

Vorwarts Steyr 1 (Hochedlinger 61), **Austria Salzburg 1** (Pfeiffenberger 59). **Att:** 8,000.
Wiener SC 3 (Mahlich 9, Kircher 70, 84), **Linzer ASK 1** (Mraz 84). **Att:** 2,000.
Austria Wien 5 (Flogel 6, 60, Ivanauskas 52 ,57, Prosenik 76), **VfB Modling 0.** **Att:** 4,000.
Admira Wacker 4 (Muller 45, 57, E. Ogris 65, Marschall 77), **Rapid Wien 3** (Metlitski 7, Rodax 32, Fjortoft 41). **Att:** 6,000.
Sturm Graz 3 (Calo 22, Hiden 61, Muzek 76), **St Polten 1** (Schinkels 88). **Att:** 3,000.
Stahl Linz 2 (Pacult 62, Spitzer 79), **Wacker Innsbruck 1** (Westerhaler 17). **Att:** 7,000.

Weekend

Vorwarts Steyr 1 (Kocijan 7), **Wiener SC 0.** **Att:** 4,000.
VfB Modling 1 (Zisser 10), **Sturm Graz 1** (Deveric 8). **Att:** 2,000.
Linzer ASK 2 (Luks 23, Keglevits 24), **Admira Wacker 2** (Marshall 7, E. Ogris 44). **Att:** 3,000.
St Polten 3 (Rotter 10, Ramus 49, Vastic 85), **Stahl Linz 0.** **Att:** 2,000.
Rapid Wien 0, Austria Wien 0. **Att:** 9,000.
Austria Salzburg 1 (Sabitzer 13), **Wacker Innsbruck 1** (Kirichler 24). **Att:** 13,000.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

FC Zurich 0, Chiasso 2 (Sahin pen 34, 51). **Att:** 2,400.
Bulle 1 (Eberhard 12), **FC Aarau 3** (Alexandrov 23, 84, Heidmann 43). **Att:** 2,800.
Servette 1 (Renato pen 90), **St Gallen 0.** **Att:** 3,500.
Lugano 2 (Kaslin 43, Pelosi 81), **Grasshopper 1** (De Vicente 33). **Att:** 5,000.
Lausanne Sports 0, Sion 2 (Rey 38, Tulio 86). **Att:** 8,500.
Neuchatel Xamax 1 (Manfreda 51), **Young Boys 3** (Moser 7, Jakobsen 59, Kunz 67). **Att:** 10,400.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

AUSTRIA Midweek

Wiener SC 1 (Cartalija 42), **Austria Salzburg 5** (Reinmayer 31, 63, Sabitzer 36, Stadier 61, Hochmalier o.g. 62). **Att:** 4,000.
Admira Wacker 3 (E. Ogris 15, 77, Ljung 69), **Vorwarts Steyr 1** (Novak 53). **Att:** 1,000.
Austria Wien 5 (Ivanauskas 20, 61, 80, Zsak 28, 48), **Linzer ASK 1** (Keglevits 42). **Att:** 4,000.
Sturm Graz 2 (Calo 41, Deveric 68), **Rapid Wien 0.** **Att:** 8,000.
Stahl Linz 1 (Kern 86), **VfB Modling 3** (Nawrochi 5, Wachter 36, Brankovic 41). **Att:** 3,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 1 (Kirchier 61), **St Polten 1** (Wastic 42). **Att:** 6,000.

Weekend

Wiener SC 0, Admira Wacker 3 (E. Ogris 16, Ljung 54, Artner 87). **Att:** 2,000.
Austria Salzburg 2 (Sabitzer 16, 72), **St Polten 2** (Ramusch 3, Wastic 17). **Att:** 9,000.
Linzer ASK 0, Sturm Graz 2 (Deveric 35, Neukirchner 73). **Att:** 3,000.
Vorwarts Steyr 0, Austria Wien 1 (Flogel 61). **Att:** 4,000.
VfB Modling 0, Wacker Innsbruck 5 (Wazinger 34, Kussnik 37, 47, Hortnagel 73, Danek 79). **Att:** 2,000.
Rapid Wien 2 (Werner o.g. 22, Blizenic 55), **Stahl Linz 1** (Metzier 23). **Att:** 2,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

Lommel 0, Anderlecht 4 (Emmers 22, Boffin 61, Bosman 64, Versavel 87). **Att:** 8,000.
Liege 1 (Ikpeba 74), **Beveren 2** (Oulare 37, Van Ham 56). **Att:** 11,000.
Charleroi 1 (Malbassa pen 42), **Gent 0.** **Att:** 10,000.
Mechelen 6 (De Boeck 8, 60, Versavel 46, Ejkelkamp 68, 83, Gijsbrechts 72), **Cercle Bruges 2** (Frenay 16, Siquet 36). **Att:** 7,500.
Antwerp 3 (Vincent 20, Segers 41, Van Veirdeghem 58), **Standard 1** (Bettagno 67). **Att:** 12,000.
Boom 3 (Wurie 48, 76, Lukalu 82), **Ekeren 2** (Keita 58, Vandersmissen 89). **Att:** 3,000.
Club Brugge 3 (Amokachi 54, 67, Booy 88), **Lierse 2** (De Smet 70, Simmes 74). **Att:** 14,000.
RWDM 1 (Lorincz 11), **Genk 1** (Goots 40). **Att:** 3,500.
Lokeren 2 (Myyry 7, Meszaros 31), **Waregem 1** (Vidmar 86). **Att:** 4,000.

FRANCE Weekend

Le Havre 2 (Kana Biyik 58, Rio pen 84), **Nimes 0.** **Att:** 7,015.
Lens 0, Auxerre 3 (Verlaat 44, Dutuel 48, Cocard). **Att:** 19,643.
AS Monaco 4 (Klinsmann 27, pen 35, Rui Barros 32, Petit 43), **Toulon 0.** **Att:** 10,000.
Bordeaux 0, Lyon 0. **Att:** 20,000.
Nantes 0, Metz 0. **Att:** 6,000.
Marseille 2 (Martin Vazquez 57, Voller pen 88), **Toulouse 1** (Debeve 12). **Att:** 30,000.
St Etienne 1 (Moravcik 60), **Paris SG 2** (Ginola 26, Sassus 40). **Att:** 30,000.
Sochaux 2 (Prat 35, Clement 89), **Valenciennes 1** (Burrchaga pen 59). **Att:** 4,500.
Strasbourg 2 (Leboeuf 7, Keller 53), **Lille 0.** **Att:** 24,534.
Montpellier 2 (Pickeu 24, 48), **Caen 0.** **Att:** 10,000.

SCOTLAND Midweek

Dundee 1 (Dinnie 37), **St Johnstone 1** (Curran 82). **Att:** 5,663.
Motherwell 1 (Kirk 71), **Hibernian 2** (Wright 54, McGinlay 86). **Att:** 5,391.
Partick Thistle 0, Dundee United 1 (Connolly 72). **Att:** 4,000.
Rangers 2 (Gordon 9, Hateley 73), **Airdrie 0.** **Att:** 34,613.
Aberdeen 1 (Creaney 16), **Celtic 1** (Shearer 20). **Att:** 15,200.
Hearts 3 (Robertson 54, pen 89, Crabbe 71), **Falkirk 0.** **Att:** 8,198.

Weekend

Airdrie 0, Dundee 0. **Att:** 2,500.
Celtic 1 (Mowbray 49), **Motherwell 1** (Kirk 65). **Att:** 24,935.
Dundee United 1 (Ferguson 14), **Hearts 1** (Levein 71). **Att:** 9,500.
Falkirk 0, Aberdeen 1 (Aitken 87). **Att:** 6,300.
Hibernian 0, Rangers 0. **Att:** 17,044.
St Johnstone 1 (Wright 48), **Partick Thistle 1** (McGlashan 8). **Att:** 4,401.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Grasshopper 0, Servette 2 (Ohrel 27, Dietlin 33). **Att:** 3,200.
Sion 1 (Tulio 90), **Lugano 4** (Subiat 51, Galvao 61, Zuffi 67, Andreoli 90). **Att:** 8,800.
Young Boys 1 (Christensen 54), **Lausanne Sports 4** (Beguin 3, 12, Wiederkehr 29, Badea 66). **Att:** 5,500.
Chiasso 3 (Macula 18, Douglas 38, Sahin 50), **Neuchatel Xamax 1** (Chassot 75). **Att:** 2,000.
Bulle 2 (Eberhard 41, Magnin 70), **FC Zurich 1** (Skoro 88). **Att:** 2,200.
St Gallen 1 (Hutardo 60), **FC Aarau 4** (Kilian 38, Salbene 56, Fluri 82, Alexandrov 90). **Att:** 4,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

AUSTRIA Midweek

Stahl Linz 0, Linzer ASK 1 (Vig 61). **Att:** 9,000.
Admira Wacker 1 (Ljung 41), **Austria Salzburg 2** (Jurcevic 25, Pfeiffenberger 36). **Att:** 4,000.
Sturm Graz 1 (Marko 30), **Vowarts Steyr 3** (Kogler 40, Knoflicek 46, Niederbacher 80). **Att:** 7,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 0, Rapid Wien 0. **Att:** 7,000.
St Polten 1 (Rotter 66), **VfB Modling 0.** **Att:** 4,000.

Weekend

Linzer ASK 1 (Ruttensteiner 70), **Wacker Innsbruck 2** (Danek 41, Lesiak 67). **Att:** 4,000.
Austria Salzburg 3 (Pfeiffenberger 10, 85, Sabitzer 20), **VfB Modling 0.** **Att:** 7,000.
Vorwarts Steyr 3 (Heraf 2, Knoficek 69, Kocian 74), **Stahl Linz 1** (Pacult 11). **Att:** 6,000.
Admira Wacker 3 (E. Ogris 38, Marschall 54, 83), **Austria Wien 1** (Flogel 27). **Att:** 6,000.
Rapid Wien 4 (Griga 11, 75, Mandreko 25, Fjortoft 35), **St Polten 1** (Steinbauer 73). **Att:** 4,000.
Wiener SC 3 (Helm 33, Kircher 72, Janesitz 84), **Sturm Graz 0.** **Att:** 2,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

Ekeren 0, Club Brugge 3 (Staelens 57, 72, Verheven 75). **Att:** 10,000.
Standard 2 (Asselman 5, Bettagno 72), **Boom 1** (Lukaku 34). **Att:** 12,000.
Beveren 2 (Lodders 21, N'Wanu 35), **Antwerp 0.** **Att:** 7,500.
Genk 1 (Goots 16), **Lokeren 2** (Meszaros pen 25, Myyry 27). **Att:** 6,000.
Anderlecht 3 (Versavel 37, 70, Degryse 66), **RWDM 2** (Lorincz pen 43, Lambic 86). **Att:** 18,000.
Gent 1 (Vandenbergh 87), **Lommel 0.** **Att:** 7,800.
Lierse 1 (Rekdal 7), **Charleroi 2** (Marciniak 12, Zetterberg 42). **Att:** 6,000.
Cercle Bruges 2 (Karacic 54, 90), **Liege 2** (Machiels 47, Arnold 57). **Att:** 4,000.
Waregem 0, Mechelen 1 (Eijkelkamp 57). **Att:** 6,000.

ENGLAND Weekend

Arsenal 2 (Bould 28, Campbell 39), **Norwich City 4** (Robins 69, 84, Phillips 72, Fox 82). **Att:** 24,030.
Chelsea 1 (Harford 84), **Oldham Ath 1** (Henry 86). **Att:** 20,699.
Coventry City 2 (Williams 9, Smith 51), **Middlesbrough 1** (Wilkinson 63). **Att:** 12,681.
Crystal Palace 3 (Bright 37, Southgate 62, Osborn 90), **Blackburn Rovers 3** (Ripley 42, Shearer 66, 82). **Att:** 17,086.
Everton 1 (Horne 44), **Sheffield Wednesday 1** (Pearson 15). **Att:** 27,687.
Ipswich 1 (Johnson 31), **Aston Villa 1** (Atkinson 84). **Att:** 16,818.
Leeds United 2 (Chapman 14, 86), **Wimbledon 1** (Barton 76). **Att:** 25,795.
Sheffield Utd 2 (Deane 5, pen 50), **Man United 1** (Hughes 61). **Att:** 18,070.
Southampton 0, Tottenham 0. **Att:** 19,654.
Nottm Forest 1 (Sheringham 29), **Liverpool 0.** **Att:** 20,038.

FRANCE Weekend

Le Havre 0, Bordeaux 1 (Dugarry 74). **Att:** 8,679.
Nimes 1 (Monczuk 20), **Lens 1** (Peron 60). **Att:** 10,000.
Auxerre 4 (Baticle 23, 45, 52, Vahirua 78), **AS Monaco 1** (Gnako 25). **Att:** 14,000.
Toulon 0, Marseille 0. **Att:** 16,000.
Lyon 0, Nantes 2 (Loko 10, Karembeu 76). **Att:** 10,000.
Metz 2 (Chaouch 52, Zitelli 70), **St Etienne 2** (Molnar 37, Moravcik 60). **Att:** 15,000.
Toulouse 1 (Ferrer 63), **Montpellier 3** (Pedemas o.g. 2, Perilleux 39, Pickeu 78). **Att:** 9,512.
Paris SG 2 (Roche 76, Valdo 80), **Sochaux 0.** **Att:** 22,000.
Valenciennes 1 (Gohel 15), **Strasbourg 2** (Leboeuf 65, Bouafia 83). **Att:** 11,500.
Lille 1 (Rollain 77), **Caen 0.** **Att:** 6,000.

GERMANY Weekend

Kaiserslautern 1 (Eriksson 23), **Koln 0.** **Att:** 37,200.
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Thorn 13), **Saarbrucken 1** (Kratzer 74). **Att:** 12,000.
FC Nurnberg 0, Werder Bremen 0. **Att:** 35,000.
Frankfurt 1 (Binz 59), **Dynamo Dresden 1** (Zander 19). **Att:** 21,000.
Bayer Uerdingen 0, Bayern Munich 3 (Thon 21, Schupp 83, Helmer 85). **Att:** 26,000.
Schalke 3 (Anderbrugge pen 29, 55, 90), **Wattenscheld 4** (Lesniak 40, 72, Tschiskale pen 56, 59). **Att:** 54,200.
VfL Bochum 2 (U. Wegmann 15, 25), **Borussia Dortmund 2** (Zorc 45, Mill 49). **Att:** 40,000.
Karlsruher 4 (Cari 18, Schutterle 69, Krieg 77, 80), **Borussia Mg 2** (Fach 19, Ertl 42). **Att:** 22,000.
Hamburg 1 (J. Bode 79), **VfB Stuttgart 1** (Gaudino 81). **Att:** 32,500.

HOLLAND Weekend

PSV 2 (Kieft 69, Popescu 82), **Roda JC 0.** **Att:** 24,950.
GA Eagles 1 (Willaarts 66), **Cambuur 1** (Bruin 59). **Att:** 6,800.
Fortuna Sittard 1 (Driessen 75), **MVV 1** (Visser 7). **Att:** 6,000.
Volendam 1 (John Binken 15), **Vitesse 1** (Van der Brom 24). **Att:** 3,300.
Sparta 0, RKC 0. **Att:** 4,000.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, Ajax 3 (Bergkamp 24, Blind 46, Pettersson 65). **Att:** 7,600.
Utrecht 1 (Oosterhuis 15), **Den Bosch 1** (Derksen 79). **Att:** 5,600.
FC Twente 0, Feyenoord 5 (Taument 20, 68, Kiprich 77, Bosz 80, Blinker 86). **Att:** 9,200.
Groningen 1 (Huizingh 45), **Willem II 1** (Van Geel 90). **Att:** 12,602.

SCOTLAND Weekend

Celtic 2 (Creaney 5, 12), **Dundee United 0.** **Att:** 30,520.
Dundee 4 (Den Bieman 16, Gilzean 32, Dodds 64, pen 83), **Rangers 3** (McCoist 20, 41, Ferguson 80). **Att:** 12,807.
Falkirk 2 (May 42, McQueen pen 44), **Hibernian 1** (Tortolano 85). **Att:** 6,000.
Hearts 2 (Mackay 61, Baird 81), **Partick Thistle 1** (Britton pen 66). **Att:** 7,911.
Motherwell 2 (Arnott 42, Angus 89), **Aberdeen 1** (Jess 7). **Att:** 5,561.
St Johnstone 3 (Curran 20, Torfason 45, Wright 89), **Airdrie 0.** **Att:** 3,708.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

FC Zurich 0, Grasshopper 0. **Att:** 8,000.
FC Aarau 1 (Alexandrov 81), **Sion 1** (Hottiger 37). **Att:** 7,200.
Servette 4 (Renato 25, 66, Anderson da Silva 76, Aebey 91), **Young Boys 1** (Hanzi 18). **Att:** 5,100.
Lugano 0, Chiasso 1 (Sahin 77). **Att:** 7,000.
Lausanne Sports 5 (Wiederkehr 9, Beguin 24, 25, 81, Raschle pen 61), **Bulle 1** (Bodonyi 89). **Att:** 7,200.
Neuchatel Xamax 0, St Gallen 0. **Att:** 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

AUSTRIA Weekend

Stahl Linz 0, Wiener SC 0. **Att:** 4,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 4 (Danek 17, 33, 75, 77), **Vorwarts Steyr 1** (Niederbacher 87). **Att:** 3,500.
St Polten 2 (Vastic 41, Keglevits o.g. 46), **Linzer ASK 2** (Keglevits 44, Dubajic 81). **Att:** 3,000.
VfB Modling 1 (Zisser 75), **Rapid Wien 1** (Mandreko 12). **Att:** 3,000.
Austria Wien 3 (Fridrikas 21, Flogel 23, 45), **Austria Salzburg 2** (Pfeiffenberger 29, Hristic 80). **Att:** 6,000.
Sturm Graz 0, Admira Wacker 0. **Att:** 4,000.

BELGIUM Midweek

Club Brugge 0, Standard 1 (Bettagno 80). **Att:** 20,000.
Charleroi 5 (Malbasa 22, Suray 29, Silvagni 37, Marciniak 61, Zetterberg 73), **Ekeren 1** (Herreman 38). **Att:** 7,000.
Antwerp 2 (Lehnhoff 13, Severeyns 56), **Boom 3** (Snow pen 3, pen 30, Junior 78). **Att:** 5,000.
Mechelen 2 (Ingesson 45, 77), **Genk 0.** **Att:** 8,000.
Beveren 1 (Oulare 29), **Cercle Bruges 0.** **Att:** 5,000.
RWDM 1 (Van Ankeren 57), **Gent 1** (Medved 55). **Att:** 5,000.
Lokeren 0, Anderlecht 2 (Crasson 72, Bosman 75). **Att:** 10,000.
Lommel 1 (Buana 4), **Lierse 6** (Rekdal 8, 90, Van Kerckhoven 16, 60, Pauwels 80, De Smet 83). **Att:** 5,000.
Liege 4 (Milosevic 44, Sunday 75, Ikpeba 77, 86), **Waregem 1** (Kruzen pen 78). **Att:** 5,000.

Weekend

Ekeren 5 (Sabbadini 54, Hofmans 62, 65, Tahamata 70, T. Vidmar 78), **Lommel 1** (Van Gompel 82). **Att:** 3,000.
Boom 1 (Lukaku 27), **Club Brugge 2** (Schaessens 2, Amokachi 86). **Att:** 8,000.
Waregem 4 (A. Vidmar 41, 89, Kruzen pen 42, 62), **Beveren 1** (Oulare 23). **Att:** 6,000.
Cercle Bruges 2 (Weber 30, 40), **Antwerp 3** (Czerniatynski 27, 58 67). **Att:** 4,000.
Anderlecht 1 (Bosman 37), **Mechelen 0.** **Att:** 22,000.
Standard 2 (Asselman 19, Wilmots 59), **Charleroi 0.** **Att:** 15,000.
Genk 2 (Goots 26, 72), **Liege 0.** **Att:** 8,000.
Gent 2 (Viscaal 45, 72), **Lokeren 0.** **Att:** 8,500.
Lierse 0, RWDM 0. **Att:** 4,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

Manchester City 1 (White 37), **QPR 1** (Sinton 47). **Att:** 24,471.
Blackburn Rovers 1 (Shearer 85), **Arsenal 0.** **Att:** 16,454.
Wimbledon 0, Ipswich 1 (Johnson 38). **Att:** 4,954.
Aston Villa 1 (Atkinson 77), **Leeds United 1** (Speed 83). **Att:** 29,151.
Liverpool 2 (Walters 43, Stewart 65), **Sheffield Utd 1** (Deane 35). **Att:** 33,107.
Man United 0, Everton 3 (Beardsley 44, Warzycha 79, Johnston 89). **Att:** 31,901.
Middlesbrough 2 (Slaven 15, 18), **Manchester City 0.** **Att:** 15,369.
Norwich City 2 (Phillips 58, Robins 60), **Chelsea 1** (Stuart 16). **Att:** 15,164.
Oldham Ath 1 (Sharp 16), **Crystal Palace 1** (McGoldrick 51). **Att:** 11,063.
QPR 3 (Ferdinand 57, 86, Bardsley 70), **Southampton 1** (Le Tissier 31). **Att:** 10,639.
Sheffield Wednesday 2 (Hirst 16, 78), **Nottm Forest 0.** **Att:** 29,639.
Tottenham 0, Coventry City 2 (Williams 4, 30). **Att:** 24,388.

Weekend

Aston Villa 1 (Atkinson 65), **Southampton 1** (Adams 78). **Att:** 17,894.
Blackburn Rovers 1 (Newell 69), **Manchester City 0.** **Att:** 19,433.
Man United 1 (Irwin 58), **Ipswich 1** (Kiwomya 56). **Att:** 31,704.
Middlesbrough 4 (Wilkinson 8, 9, Wright 47, Hendrie 59), **Leeds United 1** (Cantona 69). **Att:** 18,649.
Norwich City 1 (Fox 67), **Everton 1** (Beardsley 55). **Att:** 14,150.
Oldham Ath 5 (Adams 31, Sharp 38, Henry 44, Halle 46, Bernard 59), **Nottm Forest 3** (Pearce pen 66, Banister 86, 88). **Att:** 11,632.
QPR 3 (Ferdinand 2, Barker 13, Bailey 83), **Sheffield Utd 2** (Cork 3, Deane 58). **Att:** 10,392.
Sheffield Wednesday 3 (Hirst 27, pen 37, Wilson 81), **Chelsea 3** (Jones 49, Stuart 57, Newton 64). **Att:** 26,338.
Tottenham 2 (Durie 16, Sedgley 89), **Crystal Palace 2** (McGoldrick 22, Young 80). **Att:** 25,237.
Wimbledon 1 (Holdsworth 73), **Coventry City 2** (Gynn 13, Rosario 46). **Att:** 3,795.
Liverpool 0, Arsenal 2 (Limpar 53, Wright 80). **Att:** 34,961.

FRANCE Weekend

Nantes 2 (Vulic 10, Pedros 60), **Auxerre 1** (Cocard 4). **Att:** 19,000.
Lens 0, Le Havre 0. **Att:** 16,086.
AS Monaco 3 (Djorkaeff 8, Luis Enrique 19, Klinsmann 31), **Nimes 1** (Vercruysse 34). **Att:** 12,000.
Bordeaux 1 (Lizarazu pen 46), **Toulon 1** (Roy 81). **Att:** 18,000.
Marseille 3 (Boli 26, Pele 73, Voller 77), **Metz 2** (Kubik 72, Chaouch 79). **Att:** 29,233.
St Etienne 3 (Deguerville 16, Mendy 42, Bouquet 70), **Toulouse 2** (Ferrer pen 27, Nemecek 65). **Att:** 15,940.
Sochaux 1 (Robert 31), **Lyon 0.** **Att:** 5,000.
Strasbourg 0, Paris SG 4 (Fournier 8, Weah 61, 64, Calderaro 83). **Att:** 34,292.
Montpellier 3 (Ferhaoui 21, Blanc 37, Pickeu 58), **Lille 0.** **Att:** 13,000.
Caen 3 (Dangbeto 37, Gravelaine 51, Point 58), **Valenciennes 0.** **Att:** 8,832.

GERMANY Weekend

Saarbrucken 2 (Wynalda 37, 74), **Karlsruher 0.** **Att:** 29,000.
Wattenscheid 1 (Kula 21), **Bayer Uerdingen 1** (Bittengel 55). **Att:** 7,000.
Dynamo Dresden 1 (Jahnig 15), **Hamburg 1** (Weichert 84). **Att:** 18,500.
VfB Stuttgart 3 (F. Walter 7, 18, Knup 80), **FC Nurnberg 0.** **Att:** 35,000.
Borussia Mg 1 (Kempe o.g. 32), **VfL Bochum 1** (Reekers 4). **Att:** 25,000.
Borussia Dortmund 0, Schalke 2 (Schlipper 28, Christensen 76). **Att:** 43,000.
Bayern Munich 1 (Labbadia 20), **Kaiserslautern 0.** **Att:** 67,000.
Koln 0, Frankfurt 1 (Yeboah 43). **Att:** 30,000.
Werder Bremen 1 (Borowka 18),

Bayer Leverkusen 1, Thom 27.
Att: [illegible]

HOLLAND Weekend

Willem II 1, FC Twente 1 (Gaasbeek 41). **Att: [illegible]**
MVV 1, Utrecht 3 (Van Diemen 3, Vierklau 1, Schouten 38). **Att: 5,500.**
Den Bosch 2 (Dentsen 43, Heine pen 64), **SVV/Dordrecht 0. Att:** 2,650.
Cambuur 5, Sparta 0. Att: 8,250.
Feyenoord 4 (Fraser 4, Obiku 60, Kiprich [illegible] 80, Fortuna **Sittard 1** (Hofman 33). **Att: [illegible]**
Ajax 3 (Berkamp 32, 42, Pettersson 39), **GA Eagles 1** (Marbus 51). **Att:** 17,603.
RKC v PSV — *postponed.*
Roda JC 1 (Hanssen 81), **Volendam 0. Att:** 4,000.
Vitesse 0, Groningen 0. Att: 5,859.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Vit. Guimares 2, Beira Mar 1
Chaves 1, Maritimo 2
Boavista 1, Belenenses 0
Sporting Lisbon 0, Tirsense 0
Farense 2, Salgueiros 0
Espinho 1, Famalicao 0
Gil Vicente 0, Sp. Braga 1

SCOTLAND Weekend

Aberdeen 2 (Shearer 23, Paatelainen 44), **Dundee 1** (Patterson 7). **Att:** 12,000.
Airdrie 2 (Honor 43, Lawrence 64), **Falkirk 0. Att:** 3,500.
Dundee United 2 (Connolly 12, O'Neil 44), **St Johnstone 1** (Torfason 85). **Att:** 7,353.
Hibernian 0, Hearts 0. Att: 15,889.
Partick Thistle 2 (Cameron 33, Shaw 46), **Motherwell 2** (Ferguson 31, Arnott 78). **Att:** 5,469.
Rangers 1 (Durrant 69), **Celtic 1** (Creaney 53). **Att:** 43,239.

SWITZERLAND Midweek

Grasshopper 1 (Hermann 43), **Sion 1** (Asis 30). **Att:** 4,200.
Young Boys 1 (Streun 60), **Chiasso 0. Att:** 3,900.
Bulle 0, St Gallen 1 (Estay 11). **Att:** 2,100.
FC Aarau 1 (R. Sutter 83), **FC Zurich 1** (Baljic 66). **Att:** 5,900.
Lugano 1 (Galvao 67), **Servette 1** (Neuville 71). **Att:** 4,500.
Neuchatel Xamax 2 (Manfreda 7, Chassot 90), **Lausanne 0. Att:** 11,600.

Weekend

Sion 3 (Asis 28, Rey 69, Sauthier 80), **Young Boys 3** (Jakobsen 15, 53, Moser 87). **Att:** 7,600.
Chiasso 0, Bulle 0. Att: 2,650.
St Gallen 1 (Estay pen 41), **Grasshopper 1** (Magnin 13). **Att:** 7,000.
FC Zurich 0, Neuchatel Xamax 0. Att: 3,900.
Servette 3 (Anderson da Silva 3, 70, Aeby 90), **FC Aarau 0. Att:** 6,100.
Lausanne Sports 1 (Fink 68), **Lugano 1** (Colombo 24). **Att:** 6,700.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

AUSTRIA Midweek

Wiener SC 2 (Kircher 36, Mahlich 68), **Austria Wien 1** (Fridrikas 17). **Att:** 7,000.

Weekend

Linzer ASK 1 (Dubajic 51), **VfB Modling 0. Att:** 3,000.
Vorwarts Steyr 0, St Polten 2 (Rosenegger 39, Wastic 52). **Att:** 3,000.
Austria Wien 3 (Stoger 25, 88, Hasenhuttl 67), **Sturm Graz 0. Att:** 3,000.
Austria Salzburg 2 (Ergovic 25, Pfeifenberger 77), **Rapid Wein 2** (Mandreko 69, Griga 82). **Att:** 12,000.
Wiener SC 0, Wacker Innsbruck 0. Att: 5,000.
Admira Wacker 3 (Abfalterer 62, Ljung 74, Gutebderer 84), **Stahl Linz 1** (Gager 15). **Att:** 1,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

Southampton 0, Man United 1 (Dublin 88). **Att:** 15,623.
Crystal Palace 1 (Young 41), **Sheffield Wednesday 1** (Williams 66). **Att:** 14,005.
Everton 1 (Johnston 88), **Aston Villa 0. Att:** 22,372.
Ipswich 2 (Dozzell 56, Kiwomya 90), **Liverpool 2** (Walters 39, Molby pen 66). **Att:** 20,109.
Leeds United 5 (Wallace 19, Cantona 26, 31, 47, Chapman 66), **Tottenham 0. Att:** 28,218.
Sheffield Utd 2 (Beesley 48, Hodges 67), **Wimbledon 2** (Barton 34, Holdsworth 74). **Att:** 15,463.
Arsenal 2 (Winterburn 25, Wright 31), **Oldham Ath 0. Att:** 20,796.
Chelsea 0, Blackburn Rovers 0. Att: 19,575.
Coventry City 0, QPR 1 (Impey 45). **Att:** 13,563.
Manchester City 3 (White 45, 80, McMahon 90), **Norwich City 1** (Megson 58). **Att:** 23,182.

Weekend

Arsenal 2 (Parlour 8, Merson 27), **Sheffield Wednesday 1** (Hirst 33). **Att:** 23,389.
Chelsea 1 (Harford 59), **QPR 0. Att:** 22,910.
Coventry City 0, Blackburn Rovers 2 (Shearer pen 70, Atkins 78). **Att:** 14,541.
Crystal Palace 1 (McGoldrick 20), **Norwich City 2** (Power 16, Phillips 75). **Att:** 12,033.
Everton 0, Wimbledon 0. Att: 18,118.
Leeds United 2 (McAllister 7, Chapman 87), **Liverpool 2** (Whelan 44, Molby pen 72). **Att:** 29,597.
Manchester City 3 (Quinn 5, Vonk 8, White 23), **Oldham Ath 3** (Jobson 12, Milligan 30, Halle 38). **Att:** 27,288.
Nottm Forest 0, Man Utd 2 (Hughes 16, Giggs 49). **Att:** 19,694.
Sheffield Utd 0, Aston Villa 2 (Parker 4, 86). **Att:** 18,773.
Southampton 2 (Le Tissier pen 81, Banger 84), **Middlesbrough 1** (Wilkinson 74). **Att:** 13,003.
Ipswich 1 (Wark 45), **Tottenham 1** (Cundy 29). **Att:** 20,100.

FRANCE Weekend

Le Havre 0, AS Monaco 0. Att: 10,000.
Nimes 1 (Pabois 54), **Nantes 1** (Vulic 68). **Att:** 9,655.
Lens 1 (Hutteau 2), **St Etienne 1** (Moravcik 57). **Att:** 20,377.
Auxerre 1 (Vahirua 30), **Bordeaux 0. Att:** 15,000.
Toulon 1 (Pineda 3), **Montpellier 0. Att:** 6,000.
Lyon 2 (Debah 14, 89), **Marseille 2** (Sauzee 10, Boli 90). **Att:** 27,641.
Metz 5 (Kubik pen 1, pen 80, Chaouch 4, 77, Zitelli 5), **Sochaux 1** (Garande 72). **Att:** 10,980.
Toulouse 1 (Ferrer pen 26), **Strasbourg 1** (Pouliquen 58). **Att:** 9,000.
Paris SG 2 (Ginola 28, Fournier 68), **Caen 0. Att:** 28,000.
Valenciennes 0, Lille 1 (Frandsen 36). **Att:** 13,000.

GERMANY Midweek

Bayer Uerdingen 0, Borussia Dortmund 2 (Mill 34, 72). **Att:** 53,000.
Schalke 1 (Mihajlovic 67), **Borussia Mg 2** (Wynhoff 23, F. Schulz 75). **Att:** 53,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Thom 1, 5, 63, Nehl 67), **VfB Stuttgart 0. Att:** 14,700.
Hamburg 0, FC Nurnberg 1 (Wuck 54). **Att:** 15,900.
Kaiserslautern 4 (Wagner 4, Vogel 10, Kuntz 71, pen 80), **Wattenscheid 1** (Ibrahim 83). **Att:** 28,500.
VfL Bochum 4 (Heinemann pen 44, Moutas 54, 74, U. Wegmann 68), **Saarbrucken 0. Att:** 15,000.
Karlsruher 5 (Kiriakov 31, 65, Bender pen 39, 63, Kirieg 54), **Werder Bremen 2** (Rufer 7, Harttgen 14). **Att:** 18,000.
Dynamo Dresden 3 (Jahnig 35, Zander 40, Pilz 72), **Koln 0. Att:** 16,000.

Weekend

Borussia Mg 0, Bayer Uerdingen 4 (Bremser 5, 43, Peschke 10, Sassen 88). **Att:** 20,000.
FC Nurnberg 0, Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 1). **Att:** 33,000.
VfB Stuttgart 2 (F. Walter 68, Strunz 90), **Karlsruher 1** (Kiriakov 80). **Att:** 25,000.
Saarbrucken 1 (Wynalda 25), **Schalke 3** (Anderbrugge 48, A. Muller 58, Mihaljlovic 89). **Att:** 29,000.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Povlsen 57), **Kaiserslautern 0. Att:** 36,843.
Wattenscheid 1 (Lesniak 28), **Frankfurt 2** (Bein 56, Kruse 78). **Att:** 6,000.
Bayern Munich 3 (Jorginho 49, Labbadia 76, 78), **Dynamo Dresden 1** (Gutschow pen 88). **Att:** 30,000.
Koln 2 (Ordenewitz 25, Steinmann 70), **Hamburg 2** (Rohde 53, Weichert 84). **Att:** 16,000.
Werder Bremen 3 (Schwanke o.g. 16, Votava 18, Bratseth 39), **VfL Bochum 1** (Hermann 44). **Att:** 12,800.

HOLLAND Weekend

GA Eagles 2 (Boere 10, Overmars 25), **Den Bosch 0. Att:** 6,200.
SVV/Dordrecht 2 (Jerry Simons 2, Langerak 14), **MVV 2** (Visser 17, Lanckohr pen 32). **Att:** 1,250.
Fortuna Sittard 0, Willem II 1 (Vincent 5). **Att:** 4,500.
Volendam 0, RKC 2 (Van Hoogdalem 44, Boogers 71). **Att:** 2,500.
Sparta 0, Ajax 0. Att: 8,500.
Utrecht 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 15,000.
FC Twente 5 (Gaasbeek 22, Kool 25, De Boer 79, Mulder 84, 90), **Groningen 0. Att:** 5,500.
Roda JC 0, Vitesse 2 (Straal 20, Van der Brom 34). **Att:** 4,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Salgueiros 2, Sporting Lisbon 0
Estoril 2, Chaves 1
Braga 2, Espinho 2
Beira-Mar 0, Gil Vicente 1
Maritimo 3, Vit. Guimaraes 0
Pacos Ferreira 1, Boavista 4
Famalicao 1, Farense 0
Belenenses 0, FC Porto 0
Tirsense 1, Benfica 2

SCOTLAND Weekend

Airdrie 1 (Boyle 64), **Celtic 1** (Payton 20). **Att:** 10,500.
Dundee United 2 (Ferguson 46, 82), **Falkirk 0. Att:** 6,444.
Hearts 1 (Berry 39), **Motherwell 0. Att:** 7,285.
Partick Thistle 6 (Shaw 22, 37, 51, pen 58 Patterson o.g. 79, Britton 87), **Dundee 3** (Dodds 6, 74, Gilzean 38). **Att:** 5,429.
Rangers 3 (Durrant 53, McCoist 62, Michailichenko 87), **Aberdeen 1** (Aitken 21). **Att:** 41,636.
St Johnstone 1 (Wright pen 74), **Hibernian 1** (McIntyre 56). **Att:** 6,017.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Grasshopper 5 (Elber 6, 80, 83, De Vicente 22, A. Sutter 88), **Bulle 0. Att:** 3,100.
Sion 3 (Piffaretti 22, Tulio 59, 81), **Chiasso 0. Att:** 7,000.
Young Boys 2 (Jakobsen 48, 54), **St Gallen 1** (Hutardo 72). **Att:** 4,200.
Lugano v FC Aarau — *postponed.*
Lausanne Sports 3 (Fink 25, 90, Badea 55), **FC Zurich 2** (Kagi 49, Grassi 86). **Att:** 4,900.
Neuchatel Xamax 0, Servette 0. Att: 10,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

AUSTRIA Weekend

St Polten 0, Wiener SC 0. Att: 2,000.
VfB Modling 3 (Robakjevic 22, Ruhmkorf 29, Nikischer 84), **Vorwarts Steyr 1** (Heraf 60). **Att:** 1,000.
Sturm Graz 1 (Kern 60), **Austria Salzburg 2** (Pfeifenberger 34, 67). **Att:** 8,000.
Stahl Linz 0, Austria Wien 0. Att: 3,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 2 (Danek 7, 82), **Admira Wacker 0. Att:** 4,000.
Rapid Wien 5 (Weber 12, Griga 41, Metlitsky 45, Kuhbauer 48, Rodax 52), **Linzer ASK 1** (Keglevits 50). **Att:** 3,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

Liege 1 (Ernes 72), **Anderlecht 6** (Degryse pen 10, 87, Versavel 16, 62, Bosman 41, Boffin 90). **Att:** 15,000.
Beveren 2 (Soudan 40, Van Overtveld 55), **Genk 1** (Van der Elst 64). **Att:** 4,000.
Charleroi 7 (Mommens pen 5, Marcyniak 30, Brogno 39, 58, 60, Malbassa 79, Jsacquemart 84), **Boom 4** (De Meersman 9, Snow 46, Lukaku 49, Koroma 59). **Att:** 12,000.
Lommel 1 (Vanaken pen 90), **Standard 1** (Van Rooy 6). **Att:** 8,000.
Mechelen 3 (Eijkelkamp 21, 31, Ingesson 64), **Gent 2** (Vandenbergh 17, 45). **Att:** 9,200.
Cercle Brugge 3 (Karacic 26, 87, Weber 90), **Waregem 4** (Kruzen pen 6, 55, Vidmar 83, Boes 90). **Att:** 4,000.
RWDM 1 (Van Ankeren 60), **Ekeren 1** (Claesen 80). **Att:** 3,5000.
Lokeren 0, Lierse 0. Att: 3,500.

ENGLAND Midweek

Norwich City 3 (Crook 2, Power 77, Phillips 90), **Nottm Forest 1** (Clough 31). **Att:** 14,104.
Liverpool 1 (Wright 60), **Southampton 1** (Dixon 51). **Att:** 30,024.
Middlesbrough 2 (Kernaghan 55, Wilkinson 83), **Ipswich 2** (Wark 26, Goddard 60). **Att:** 14,255.
Oldham Ath 2 (Olney 85, 90), **Leeds United 2** (Cantona 54, 76). **Att:** 13,848.
Wimbledon 0, Manchester City 1 (White 49). **Att:** 4,714.
Aston Villa 1 (Richardson 31), **Chelsea 3** (Fleck 39, Newton 42, Wise 57). **Att:** 19,125.
Man United 1 (Hughes 88), **Crystal Palace 0. Att:** 29,736.
QPR 0, Arsenal 0. Att: 20,868.
Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Bart-Williams 62), **Coventry City 2** (Ndlovu 42, Hurst 49). **Att:** 22,874.
Tottenham 2 (Sheringham 44, Durie 46), **Sheffield Utd 0. Att:** 21,322.

Weekend

Aston Villa 3 (Yorke 18, Staunton 42, Froggatt 73), **Crystal Palace 0. Att:** 17,120.
Blackburn Rovers 4 (Shearer 3, pen 59, Atkins 52, Crossley o.g. 62), **Nottm Forest 1** (Bannister 15). **Att:** 16,180.
Liverpool 2 (Saunders 27, Redknapp 89), **Chelsea 1** (Harford 72). **Att:** 34,199.
Middlesbrough 2 (Falconer 36, Wright 83), **Sheffield Utd 0. Att:** 15,179.
Norwich City 1 (Robins 88), **Southampton 0. Att:** 12,452.
Oldham Ath 0, Coventry City 1 (Gallacher 55). **Att:** 11,254.
QPR 0, Ipswich 0. Att: 12,806.
Sheffield Wed 0, Manchester City 3 (White 20, 75, Vonk 55). **Att:** 27,169.
Tottenham 2 (Allen 79, Turner 90), **Everton 1** (Beardsley 42). **Att:** 26,503.
Wimbledon 3 (Sanchez 39, Fashanu 81, Earle 87), **Arsenal 2** (Wright 34, 82). **Att:** 12,906.
Man United 2 (Kanchelskis 28, Bruce 44), **Leeds United 0. Att:** 31,296.

FRANCE Weekend

AS Monaco 2 (Djorkaeff 28, 60), **Lens 1** (Sirakov pen 83). **Att:** 6,000.
Nantes 5 (Loko 27, 42, Pedros 50, Ziani 83, Vulic 90), **Le Havre 2** (Bertin 41, Aubame 84). **Att:** 8,000.
Marseille 2 (Voller 20, 60), **Auxerre 0. Att:** 33,785.
St Etienne 2 (Passi 53, Kastendeuch pen 63), **Toulon 0. Att:** 15,929.
Sochaux 1 (Blanc 50), **Toulouse 0. Att:** 3,800.
Strasbourg 1 (Leboeuf pen 65), **Metz 1** (Sechet 59). **Att:** 27,582.
Lille 0, Paris SG 0. Att: 12,000.
Montpellier 1 (Asanovic 34), **Valenciennes 3** (Gohel 23, Robert 82, Boskovic 90). **Att:** 11,581.
Caen 3 (Gorter 5, Calderon 44, Dangbeto 90), **Lyon 2** (Cauet o.g. 59, Delamontagne 89). **Att:** 7,223.
Bordeaux 1 (Croci 79), **Nimes 1** (Lemoult 83). **Att:** 10,000.

GERMANY Midweek

Frankfurt 4 (Yeboah 24, 85, Bein 47, Studer 75), **Borussia Dortmund 1** (Povlsen 30). **Att:** 34,000.
Kaiserslautern 0, Borussia Mg 0. Att: 35,154.
Schalke 0, Werder Bremen 0. Att: 35,500.
Karlsruher 1 (Krieg 81), **FC Nurnberg 1** (Zietsch 32). **Att:** 18,000.
Dynamo Dresden 2 (Prinzen o.g. 28, Kern 42), **Wattenscheid 1** (Fink 27). **Att:** 13,000.
Bayer Uerdingen 1 (Hartenberger 81), **Saarbrucken 1** (Savichev 68). **Att:** 7,000.
VfL Bochum 0, VfB Stuttgart 0. Att: 18,000.
Koln 1 (Ordenewitz 68), **Bayern Munich 3** (Kreuzer 33, Wouters 44, Ziege 78). **Att:** 51,000.
Hamburg 0, Bayer Leverkusen 0. Att: 14,600.

Weekend

Borussia Mg 3 (Nielsen pen 21, Criens 63, Wynhoff 90), **Frankfurt 3** (Kruse 7, Yeboah 38, 53). **Att:** 15,000.
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Mill 6, Povlsen 15, Chapuisat 18), **Dynamo Dresden 0. Att:** 36,672.
VfB Stuttgart 1 (Dubajic 89), **Schalke 0. Att:** 32,000.
Saarbrucken 2 (Wynalda 64, 74), **Kaiserslautern 0. Att:** 34,000.
Wattenscheid 4 (Neuhaus 35, Buckmaier 61, Prinzen 77, Sane 80), **Koln 2** (Ordenewitz 13, pen 71). **Att:** 7,000.
Bayern Munich 4 (Ziege 51, Wohlfarth 54, Helmer 59, Mazinho 65), **Hamburg 0. Att:** 30,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 5 (Hapal 21, 70, Thom 26, Kree pen 51, Kirsten 75), **Karlsruher 1** (Schutterle 31). **Att:** 14,800.
FC Nurnberg 2 (Eckstein 49, 66), **VfL Bochum 1** (Moutas 78). **Att:** 20,000.
Werder Bremen 2 (Harttgen 20, Votava 87), **Bayer Uerdingen 1** (Sassen 50). **Att:** 10,959.

HOLLAND Weekend

Willem II 1 (Van Geel 32), **Utrecht 2** (Biji 12, Wijnands 63). **Att:** 6,000.
MVV 3 (Lanckohr 25, Thal 59, Meijer 70), **GA Eagles 0. Att:** 5,000.
Cambuur 0, Volendam 0. Att: 7,000.
Groningen 2 (Van Kessel 26, Djurovski 53), **Fortuna Sittard 1** (Sneekes 30). **Att:** 11,412.
Feyenoord 3 (Metgod 59, Obiku 63, Kiprich 80), **SVV/Dordrecht 0. Att:** 21,120.
Ajax 1 (Kieft 16), **PSV 2** (Bergkamp 68, Numan 71). **Att:** 40,000.
RKC 1 (Boogers 59), **Roda JC 4** (Hofstede 10, 86, Van de Luer pen 47, Jansen 68). **Att:** 2,500.
Vitesse 0, FC Twente 1 (De Boer 13). **Att:** 5,647.
Den Bosch 1 (Goossens 22), **Sparta 1** (Van den Berg 85). **Att:** 2,138.

ITALY Weekend

Atalanta 2 (Ganz 25, Rambaudi 78), **Parma 1** (Melli 88). **Att:** 20,000.
Cagliari 0, Juventus 0. Att: 35,000.
Fiorentina 1 (Effenberg 53), **Genoa 1** (Van't Schip 66). **Att:** 37,332.
Milan 1 (Grandini o.g. 58), **Foggia 0. Att:** 74,000.
Napoli 0, Brescia 0. Att: 60,000.
AS Roma 0, Pescara 1 (Nobile 70). **Att:** 55,306.
Sampdoria 3 (Fuser o.g. 5, Jugovic 37, Mancini pen 53), **Lazio 3** (Signori 18, 21, Buso o.g. 74). **Att:** 26,000.
Torino 4 (Casagrande 31, 36, Gadda pen 39, Scifo 69), **Ancona 1** (Detari pen 60). **Att:** 20,000.
Udinese 2 (Balbo 69, Contratto 86), **Internazionale 1** (Schillaci pen 76). **Att:** 32,000.

PORTUGAL Midweek

FC Porto 1, Estoril 0

Weekend

Beira Mar 1, Maritimo 0
Vitoria Guimaraes 2, Estoril 1
Chaves 1, Belenenses 2
FC Porto 2, Pacos Ferreira 0
Boavista 0, Tirsese 0
Benfica 0, Salgueiros 0
Sporting Lisbon 4, Famalicao 3
Farense 1, Braga 0
Gil Vicente 1, Espinho 2

SCOTLAND Weekend

Dundee 1 (Dodds 19), **Hearts 3** (Robertson 3, Ferguson 31, Levein 37). **Att:** 5,878.
Aberdeen 0, Airdrie 0. Att: 9,000.
Celtic 3 (Collins 20, 77, Creaney 82), **St Johnstone 1** (Wright 55). **Att:** 21,831.
Hibernian 2 (Tortolano 71, Jackson pen 73), **Dundee United 1** (Connolly 45). **Att:** 7,752.
Motherwell 1 (Arnott 54), **Rangers 4** (Brown 4, McCoist 53, 76, 88). **Att:** 10,074.
Falkirk 0, Partick Thistle 1 (Britton 15). **Att:** 5,632.

SPAIN Weekend

Barcelona 2 (Baquero 5, Stoichkov 88), **Real Madrid 1** (Michel 73). **Att:** 110,000.
Valencia 1 (Arroyo 61), **Rayo Vallecano 0. Att:** 40,000.
Sporting Gijon 0, Osasuna 0. Att: 15,000.
Real Zaragoza 2 (Higuera 59, Brehme pen 73), **Espanol 1** (Fonseca 84). **Att:** 20,000.
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Valverde 20, Ciganda 31), **Cadiz 1** (Milanko 55). **Att:** 35,000.
Logrones 1 (Linde 31), **Oviedo 0. Att:** 7,300.
Dep. La Coruna 2 (Bebeto pen 30, Claudio 35), **Celta Vigo 0. Att:** 25,000.
Albacete 3 (Catali 7, Pinilla 63, Zalazar 89), **Sevilla 4** (Suker pen 26, 37, 53, Andrades 79). **Att:** 16,000.
Burgos 4 (Edu 35, Loren 42, Balint 47, 85), **Real Sociedad 0. Att:** 9,000.
Atletico Madrid 3 (Solozabal 31, Luis Garcia 81, 90), **Tenerife 2** (Pizzi pen 47, Pier 90). **Att:** 45,000.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Chiasso 0, Grasshopper 1 (Elber 28). **Att:** 2,000.
Bulle 1 (Magnin 89), **Young Boys 4** (Streun 11, Kunz 13, Bregy 17, Jakobsen 72). **Att:** 3,000.
St Gallen 1 (Ratinho 82), **Sion 0. Att:** 5,400.
FC Zurich 2 (Milton 2, Kagi 64), **Lugano 1** (Subiat 25). **Att:** 3,700.
FC Aarau 2 (Heldmann 38, Komornicki 41), **Neuchatel Xamax 1** (Manfreda 78). **Att:** 5,100.
Servette 2 (Anderson da Silva 44, Neuville 48), **Lausanne Sports 1** (Fink 39). **Att:** 11,800.

Midweek

Lugano 4 (Sylvestre 7, Pelosi, Kaslin 42, Zuffi 66), **FC Aarau 1** (Fluri 90). **Att:** 3,700.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
Jul 15 = Liapaya, Latvia — Baltic Cup
Latvia 2 (Skitik 27, Linard 45)
Estonia 1 (Olumets 65)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000.

THURSDAY, JULY 16
Jul 16 = Liapaya, Latvia — Baltic Cup
Lithuania 1 (Apanovics 30)
Estonia 1 (Olumets 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,500.

FRIDAY, JULY 17
Jul 17 = Liapaya, Latvia — Baltic Cup
Latvia 2
Lithuania 3. Att: 7,000.
● Lithuania win Baltic Cup (Lithuania 3pts, Latvia 2, Estonia 1).

SUNDAY, JULY 19
Jul 19 = Guatemala City — WC CONCACAF qual
Guatemala 0
Honduras 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Majid Jay (US).
Guatemala: R Perez — Salguero, Monzon, Spei, Machon — Funes (Chacon 65), Castaneda, B Perez, Giron — Martinez, Westphal (Mendez 65).
Honduras: W Cruz — P Martinez, R Martinez, Zambulla, Castro, Anariba — Rochez, Yearwood (A Cruz 70), Calix, Obando — Benneth (G Avila 74), D Flores.

CONTINUED OVER

Jul 19 = Managua — WC CONCACAF qual
Nicaragua 0
El Salvador 5 (Estrada 2, Jorge Gonzalez 16, 75, Castro Borja 20, Ulloa 70)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Ramon Luis Mendez (CR)
Nicaragua: Orellana — Barrios, A Gonzalez, Olivas, E Gonzalez — Ramirez, Cruz (Urroz 83), Rostran, Baltodano — Aralca, Rodriguez (Bendana 83).
El Salvador: Rivera — Moran (Melendez 58), Trigueros, Mayen, Estrada — Vasquez, Castro, Palacios, Coreas (Cienfuegos 46) — Ulloa, Jorge Magico Gonzalez.

THURSDAY, JULY 23
Jul 23 = San Salvador — WC CONCACAF qual
El Salvador 5 (Castro 13, 47, Cienfuegos 33, Jorge Magico Gonzalez 49, Ulloa 66)
Nicaragua 1 (Rostran 65)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** J L Fuentes (Hon)
El Salvador: Rivera — Mojica, Mayen, Carcamo, Estrada, Borja, Melendez, Palacios, Cienfuegos (Coreas), Ulloa (Arce), Jorge Magico Gonzalez.
Nicaragua: Chamorro — Olivas, Barrios, Armengol (Gomez), Gaudamez, Ramirez, Urroz, Gonzalez, Rostraan, Cruz (Narvaez), Bendanna.

SATURDAY, JULY 25
Jul 25 = Abidjan — friendly
Ivory Coast 2 (Yacouba Comara 43, Donald Sie 50)
Egypt 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000.

Jul 25 = Montevideo -friendly
Uruguay 2 (Sanguinetti 30, Adrian Paz 40)
Guatemala 1 (Berry og 88)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000.

SUNDAY, JULY 26
Jul 26 = Tegucigalpa — WC CONCACAF qual
Honduras 2 (Obando 88, Suazo 89)
Guatemala 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Ramirez (Mex)
Honduras: Cruz — Martinez, Calix, Yearwood, Rochez (Obando 69), Avila, Soto, Benneth (Suazo 46), Anariva, Dolmo, Castro.
Guatemala: Jerez — Ceballos, Monzon, Espel, Machon, Salguero, Leon (Batres 42), Martinez, Perez, Castaneda, Westphal.

Jul 26 = San Salvador — friendly
El Salvador 1 (Ulloa 73)
Mexico 2 (Uribe 49, 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Jose Carlos Ortiz (ES)
El Salvador: Rivera — Carcamo, Trigueros, Mayen, Estrada — Moran, Melendez, Castro, Cienfuegos — Jorge Magico Gonzalez, Palacios (Ulloa).
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez, Munoz, Ambris, Ramirez — Espana, De la Torre, Garcia — Valdez, Hermosillo, Uribe.

FRIDAY, JULY 31
Jul 31 = Los Angeles — Friendship Cup
Mexico 0
Brazil 5 (Bebeto 23, 34, Rai 25, Zinho 39, Paulo Sergio 62)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 28,651. **Ref:** Jay (US)
Mexico: Campos — Munoz, Hernandez, Ramirez, Ambriz, Espana, De la Torre (Bernal 63), Garcia, Hermosillo (Uribe 63), Valdez (Guzman 63), Mora.
Brazil: Carlos — Winck, Antonio Carlos, Ronaldo (Valdeir 82), Roberto Carlos, Mauro Silva, Bebeto, Junior, Renato (Sampaio 63), Rai (Palhinha 75), Zinho (Paulo Sergio 63).

Jul 31 = Los Angeles — Friendship Cup
United States 0
Colombia 1 (Valencia 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,651. **Ref:** Ochoa (Mex)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Balboa, Dooley, Clavijo, Quinn, Kinnear (Sorber 46), Michallik (Acosta 46), Murray, Perez, Vermes (Sullivan 69).
Colombia: Villaraga — Perea, Mendoza, Perez, Moreno, Escobar (Cabrera 65), Rincon, Valderrama, Alvarez (Villamizar 86), De Avila (Guerrero 80), Valencia.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2
Aug 2 = Paramaribo -WC CONCACAF qual
Surinam 0
St Vincent 0
Att: 6,000. **Ref:** Ramesehe Ramdan.

Aug 2 = Los Angeles — Friendship Cup
Mexico 0
Colombia 0
Att: 17,021. **Ref:** Dominguez (US)
Mexico: Campos — Munoz, Hernandez, Ramirez (Coyote 67), Ambriz, Espana, De la Torre (Bernal 46), Garcia (Espinoza 46), Hermosillo, Valdez (Uribe 46), Suarez.
Colombia: Villaraga — Perea, Mendoza, Perez, Moreno, Escobar (Guerrero 80), Rincon, Valderrama, Cabrera, De Avila, Valencia.

Aug 2 = Los Angeles -Friendship Cup
United States 0
Brazil 1 (Bebeto 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,021. **Ref:** Marrufo (Mex)
US: Meola — Balboa, Dooley, Doyle, Armstrong — Clavijo, Quinn (Michallik 85), Sorber, Murray (Chung 86) — Perez, Sullivan (Acosta 63).
Brazil: Gilmar — Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos — Mauro Silva, Rai, Cesar Sampaio (Paulo Sergio 46) - Renato (Edmundo 67), Bebeto, Zinho.
Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Colombia	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Mexico	2	0	1	1	0	5	1
United States	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Aug 2 = Montevideo — friendly
Uruguay 2 (Sanguinetti 30, A Paz 42)
Costa Rica 1 (Berry 89 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Lamolina (Arg)
Uruguay: Barbat — Sanguinetti, Kanapkis, D Sanchez, N Cabrera -Saralegui (Dorta 81), Barrios, Moas (Lemos 71), Pelletti — Guerra, Adrian Paz.
C Rica: Hidalgo — Quesada, Mayorga, M Montero (Berry 46), Diaz (Ramirez 77) — R Gonzalez, Rowe (Davis 46), Arnaez (Lama 46), Arguedas — Fonseca (A Smith 61), Coronado.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6
Aug 6 = Asuncion — friendly
Ecuador 1 (Tenorio 65)
Costa Rica 1 (Jara 19)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Jacome (Ecu)
Ecuador: Espinoza — Carabali, Noriega, Capurro, Coronel — Munoz (M Tenorio 76), Carcelen (De la Cruz 63), Ron (Aviles 63), Fernandez (Herrera 83) — Gavica (Hurtado 63), B Tenorio.
C Rica: C Mayorga — Quesada, Jimenez, R Gonzalez, Berry — Dabis (B Mayorga 84), R Smith (Arnaez 73), Ramirez, Arguedas (J M Rodriguez 73) — Jara (Astua 73), Llama (Chacon 59).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Aug 8 = Reykjavik — friendly
Iceland 0
Israel 2 (Eyal Berkovitz, Shalom Tikva)
Att: 2,000.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
Aug 11 = Jakarta — Independence Cup
Malaysia 1 (Ravindran 70)
Australia 0
HT: 0-0.

Aug 11 = Jakarta — Independence Cup
Indonesia 4 (Putiray 20, Husaini 78, Ekodono 83, Isumu 88)
Thailand 1 (Boonsol 64)
HT: 1-0.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12
Aug 12 = Riga — WC Euro gp 3
Latvia 1 (Linerts 15)
Lithuania 2 (Poderis 65, Tereskinas 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Marko (Cze)
Latvia: Karazvajecs — Ivanovs, Sprogis (Zemlinskis 65), Gnedojs, Glazovs (Teplovs 46) — Popkovs, Sevlakovs, Alekseyenko — Semionus, Linarts, Stradinns.
Lithuania: Martinkenas -Buzmakovas, Janonis, Sukristovas (Poderis), Vainoras — Matheinkus, Baltusmikas, Baranauskas, Narbekovas (Tereskinas) — Fridrikas, Ivanauskas.

Aug 12 = Los Angeles — friendly
Honduras 3 (Calix 47, Obando 78, Castillo 89)
El Salvador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13
Aug 13 = Jakarta — Independence Cup
Malaysia 2 (Adan 54, Hassan 79)
Thailand 0
HT: 0-0.

Aug 13 = Jakarta — Independence Cup
South Korea 1 (Ho Seong 9)
Australia 0
HT: 1-0.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
Aug 14 = Jakarta — Independence Cup
Indonesia 0
Australia 3 (Edwards 63, Gray 71, Wade 84)
HT: 0-0.

Aug 14 = Jakarta — Independence Cup
South Korea 1 (Yang Soo 20)
Malaysia 0
HT: 1-0.

Aug 14 = Oran -African Nations' Cup, Gp 3
Algeria 3 (Meziane 13, Rahmouni 20, Saib 49)
Guinea-Bissau 1 (Sirou 60)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Aug 15 = Ougadougou — African Nations' Cup, Gp 7
Burkina Faso 1 (Bambara 58)
Liberia 1 (Y Traore og 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,000.

Aug 15 = Mwanza — African Nations' Cup, Gp 7
Tanzania 2 (Machunga Bakari 35, Mwamba 53)
Ghana 2 (Hasule og 22, Koma Zblade 70)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000.

Aug 15 = Kampala — African Nations' Cup, Gp 2
Uganda 3 (Mayanja 25, 30, Alolo 80)
Ethiopia 1 (Yemani 75)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Aug 16 = Tallinn — WC Euro gp 1
Estonia 0
Switzerland 6 (Chapuisat 23, 68, Bregy 29, Knup 46, Ohrel 66, Sforza 84)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Listkiewicz (Pol)
Estonia: Poom -Hepner, Kaljend, T Kallaste, Lindmaa (Veensalu 78) — Kristal, Olumets, Linnunae, R Kallaste — Reim, Pustov (Kirs 64).
Switzerland: Pascolo -Egli, Geiger, Hottiger, Rothenbuhler — Bregy, B Sutter (Bonvin 79), Ohrel, Sforza — Chapuisat, Knup.
● This was Estonia's first World Cup match for 55 years and their first at home.

Aug 16 = Panama — WC CONCACAF qual
Panama 1 (Mendieta 29 pen)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Hoyos (Col)
Panama: Bustamente — Botello, Delgado, Poyatos, Lozada — Ortega, Julio, Armando Dely Valdes (Rommel 54), Jorge Dely Valdes (Bolivar 77) — Mendieta, Julio Cesar Dely Valdes.
C Rica: Mayorga — Quesada (Arnaez 62), Gonzalez, Montero, Berry -Mayorga, Ramirez, Arguedas, Smith — Jara (Davis 62), Astua.

Aug 16 = Jakarta — Independence Cup Final
Malaysia 2 (Adan 1, Kim Hong 9)
South Korea 1 (Ki Hyung 29)
HT: 2-1.

Aug 16 = Khartoum — African Nations' Cup, Gp 2
Sudan 0
Nigeria 0
Att: 28,000.

Aug 16 = Maseru — African Nations' Cup, Gp 4
Lesotho 2 (Majoro 12, Khali 42)
Kenya 2 (Onyera 32, Nandwa 89)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 6,000.

Aug 16 = Ndjamena — African Nations' Cup, Gp 6
Chad 0
Guinea 3 (Oulare 10, T Kamara 50, F Kamara 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.

Aug 16 = Lilongwe — African Nations' Cup, Gp 8
Malawi 1 (Mtawali 81)
Egypt 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Aug 16 = Harare — African Nations' Cup, Gp 5
Zimbabwe 4 (Takawarira 7, Gumbo 20, Ndlovu 50 pen, 62)
South Africa 1 (Masinga 21)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Mwafulirwa (Malawi)

Aug 16 = Libreville — African Nations' Cup, Gp 1
Gabon 0
Cameroon 0
Att: 21,000.

Aug 16 = Kinshasa — African Nations' Cup, Gp 4
Zaire 2 (Kabongo 20, 85)
Mozambique 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,000.

Aug 16 = Bujumbura — African Nations' Cup, Gp 5
Burundi 1 (Abdi 25)
Congo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000.

Aug 16 = Cotonou — African Nations' Cup, Gp 1
Benin 1 (Sossa 66)
Niger 2 (Burkire 19, Andre 80)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17
Aug 17 = Dakar — African Nations' Cup, Gp 3
Senegal 2 (Mamadou Diallo 15, 36)
Togo 0
Att: 20,000.

Aug 17 = Lusaka — African Nations' Cup, Gp 5
Zambia 2 (Nuirenda 55, Mankika 66)
Mauritius 1 (Philigene 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000.

Aug 17 = Moscow — friendly
Russia 2 (Karpin 61 pen, Popov 66)
Mexico 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Jouk (Bye)
Russia: Cherchesov — Khlestov, Kulkov (Beschastnikh 63), Popov, Kolotovkin (Chernishov 85), Onopko, Tetradze (Podpali 85), Karpin, Lediakov (Kovalev 46; Ivanov 76), Matveyev (Lemish 80), Radchenko.
Mexico: Campos — Suarez, Munoz, Juanito, Espana, Ambriz, *Hermosillo, De la Torre, Uribe, Gacia (Coyote 86), Farfan (Espinoza 86).
**Hermosillo sent off.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
Aug 18 = Kingston — WC CONCACAF qual
Jamaica 1 (Davis 28)
Trinidad and Tobago 1 (Haynes 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ramirez (Mex)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
Aug 19 = Bratislava — friendly
Czechoslovakia 2 (Chovanec 42, Moravcik 89)
Austria 2 (Stoger 17, Pfeifenberger 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 5,720. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal -Chovanec — Glonek, Kadlec — Hapal (Nemez 46), Nemecek, Kubik (Kuka 61), Moravcik, Kula (Bilek 46) — Knoflicek (Dubovsky 46), Skuhravy.
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Zsak, Wazinger, Streiter — Prosenik, Stoger, Artner, Baur, Herzog — Feiersinger, Pfeifenberger.

Aug 19 = Sofia — friendly
Bulgaria 1 (Stoichkov 36)
Mexico 1 (Espinoza 12)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Torogan (Tur)
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Houchev (Kiriakov 46), Rakov, Chvetanov, N Iliev — Yankov, Kostadinov (Iskrenov 46), Stoichkov (I Iliev 70) — Sirakov (I Iordanov 46), Baukov, G Iordanov (Metkov 67).
Mexico: Campos — Esparza, Ramirez, Gutierrez, Espana -Ambris, Uribe, Bernal, Gusman — Loyote, Espinosa (Farfan 46).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
Aug 23 = San Jose — WC CONCACAF qual
Costa Rica 5 (Berry 17 pen, Ramirez 20, Arguedas 29, 32, Astua 87)
Panama 1 (Mendieta 89 pen)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** D'Aquila (US)
C Rica: P Mayorga -Arnaez, Montero, Gonzalez, Marchena — Berry, Davis, Arguedas (B Mayorga 76), Ramirez — Smith (Coronado 70), Astua.
Panama: Bustamente — Poyatos, Delgado, Julio, Lozada — Ortega (Guevara 58), A Dely Valdes, J Dely Valdes (Diaz 74), Mendieta — Julio Cesar Del Valdes, Rommel.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
Aug 26 = Paris — friendly
France 0
Brazil 2 (Martini og 43, Luis Henrique 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel).
France: Martini — Petit (Fournier 56), Prunier, Boli, Roche, Durand (Sauzee 64), Deschamps, Blanc (Vahirua 64), Papin, Cocard, Ginola.
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomes, Mauro Silvam Branco — Valdo (Zinho 64), Luis Henrique (Junior 84), Careca, Rai, Romario (Bebeto 64).

Aug 26 = Oslo — friendly
Norway 2 (Leonhardsen 18, Nilsen 89)
Sweden 2 (Dahlin 30, Pettersson 63)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,420. **Ref:** Ostergaard (Den)
Norway: Grodas — Lydersen, T Pedersen (R Nilsen 69), Berg (Dahlum 78), Bjornebye — Leonhardsen, Ingebrigtsen, Rekdal, Mykland (J O Pedersen 69), J I Jakobsen — Sorloth (Fjortoft 46).
Sweden: Ravelli — R Nilsson (Karmark 88), P Andersson, J Eriksson, Ljung — Rehn, Thern, Limpar (Hans Eklund 54) — Ingesson, Dahlin (Jan Jansson 84)., Petersson.
● This match celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Norwegian federation.

Aug 26 = Nyiregyhaza — friendly
Hungary 2 (K Kovacs 82, T Nagy 89)
Ukraine 1 (Gudimenko 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Streng (Rom)
Hungary: Petry (T Balogh 21) — L Disztl — Lipcsei, Cseh — T Nagy, Pisont, G Bognar (Salloi 68), Limperger (Marton 81), Lorincz (Veber 46) — Fischer (Kaman 46), K Kovacs.
Ukraine: Pomazun — Yushin, Dragunov, Shmatovalenko (Szak 89) — Dudnik (Nikidorov 60), Annenko, Tsveiba, Gudinenko (Kastomi 60), Tsimbalar (Kandaurov 64)- Prizetko (Gusev 67), *Leonyenko.
**Leonyenko sent off, 57min.*

Aug 26 = Trabzon — friendly
Turkey 3 (Hami 67, Hakan 71, 72)
Bulgaria 2 (Stoilov 11, 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Kapl (Aut)
Turkey: Hayrettin — Recep (Aykut 46), Bulent, Gokhan, Ogun — Riza, Unal, Mehmet (Oguz 40), Orhan — Hami (Vedat 78), Hakan.
Bulgaria: Nikilov — Zavirov, Mladenov, Svatanov, Iliev — Yankov, Dimitrov (Darmanchiev 70), Vdelov (Parusev 77), Stoilov — Yuiliev, Iskrenov (Donev 75).
● Some reports awarded the second Turkish goal as an own goal by N Iliev.

Aug 26 = Jakobstad — friendly
Finland 0
Poland 0
Att: 3,000. **Ref:** Lambeck (Den)
Finland: Laukkanen — Ukkonen — Kinnunen, Kanerva, Remes — Myyry (Laaksonen 84), Holmgren, Litmanen (Vanhala 89), Hjelm (Turunen 82), Jarvinen — Patelainen.
Poland: Wandzik — Lapinski — Rczepka (Adamczuk 59), Waldoch, Szewzcyk — Brzeczek, R Warzycha, Lesiak — Podbropzny (Araszkiewicz), K Warzycha (Kowalczyk 59).

Aug 26 = Bucharest -friendly
Romania 2 (Varga 44, Dumitrescu 84)
Mexico 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Pezzela (Ita)
Romania: Tene — Varga, Mihali, Sandoi, D Munteanu — Buia (Panduru 69), D Timofte, Cheregi, I Dumitrescu (Selimesi 84) — Gane, Gerstenmajer (Hanganu 46); Stan 79).
Mexico: Campos — Hernandez, Esparza (Suarez 75), Ambris, Ramirez — De la Torre (Bernal 66), Espana, Garcia (Uribe 46), Farfan (Coyote 46) -Espinoza, Hermosillo.

Aug 26 = Riga — WC Euro gp 3
Latvia 0
Denmark 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Wieser (Aut)
Latvia: Karavayev — Shevlyakovs, Alexeyenko, Ivanovs, Gnedois, Popkovs (Astafyevs 65), Sprogis, Stradinsh, Yeliseyevs, Linards (Bulders 86), Glazovs.
Denmark: Schmeichel — Sivebaek (Elstrup 46), L Olsen, Piechnik, Christofte, Heintze, Vilfort, Jensen, B Laudrup, Povlsen, Christensen.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
Aug 30 = WC CONCACAF qual
St Vincent 2 (Joseph 31, Dupont 81)
Surinam 1 (Francis 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 1
Cameroon 2 (Ewane 27, Tiki 60)
Benin 0
HT: 1-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 1
Niger 1 (Lambo Andre Zakari 11pen)
Gabon 3 (Nzamba 4, 7, 83)
HT: 1-2.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 2
Nigeria 2 (Amokachi 16, Siasia 87)
Uganda 0
HT: 1-0

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 2
Ethiopia 3 (Habte Mariam 35, Kebede 43, Beguashaw 83)
Sudan 0
HT: 2-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 3
Sierra Leone 1 (Kallon 60)
Algeria 0
HT: 0-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 3
Senegal 3 (Mamadou Diallo 45, 50, Diop 67)
Guinea Bissau 0
HT: 1-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 4
Kenya 1 (Nachok 55)
Zaire 3 (Mbole 32, Ndama 49, Okitakatshi 57)
HT: 0-1.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 4
Mozambique 3
Lesotho 0
HT: 1-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 5
South Africa 0
Zambia 1 (Mwitwa 72)
HT: 0-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 5
Mauritius 0
Zimbabwe 1 (Gumbo 38)
HT: 0-1.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 6
Congo 2 (Tchibota-Zaou 49 pen, Younga 70)
Chad 0
HT: 0-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 6
Guinea 2 (Camara 43, Oulare 44)
Burundi 2 (Nduwayo 7, Mbuyi 44)
HT: 2-2.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 7
Ghana 3 (Yeboah 2, 4, Mohamed Ahmed 84)
Burkina Faso 0
HT: 2-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 7
Liberia 1 (Sebwe 52)
Tanzania 1 (Holder 86)
HT: 0-0.

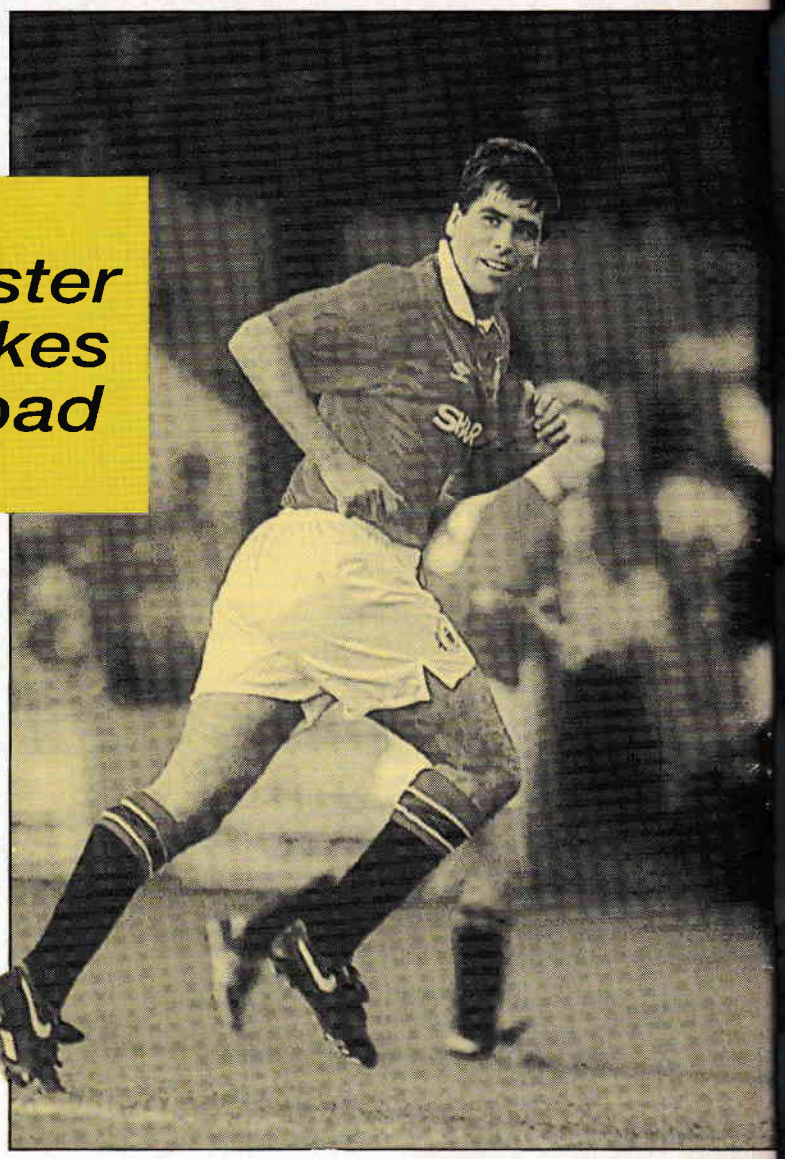
Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 8
Malawi 1
Mali 1
HT: 0-0.

Aug 30 = African Nations Gp 8
Morocco walk-over v Libya

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
Sep 2 = Prague — WC Euro gp 4
Czechoslovakia 1 (Miroslav Kadlec 77)

SPOTLIGHT ON **NEIL WEBB** BY STEVE **PEARCE**

The invisible man



Webb's rollercoaster career takes another bad turn

NEIL WEBB'S rollercoaster career has plummeted to new depths as Manchester United strive for their Holy Grail.

As The Reds pursue that elusive League title, not seen at Old Trafford since Best, Charlton, Law and Co. triumphed in 1967, 29-year-old midfielder Webb has been left kicking his heels in the reserves in front of a handful of spectators and the proverbial dog.

Webb's fortunes at United have swung from champagne and celebrations at Wembley to cheese rolls and commiserations at Rochdale.

And his current stay in the "stiffs" looks like being a long one if you believe the rumours circulating Manchester at the moment.

Webb was apparently unhappy at being withdrawn by his Old Trafford boss Alex Ferguson from an England squad last season because of injury and the rift widened when he was made the scapegoat for United's failure to win the championship when it was within their grasp.

Indeed such is his plight that the England international is in danger of being forgotten by the Reds fans and manager who welcomed him in 1989 as the missing link in the quest for the League title.

His midfield artistry had already made him a household name with Nottingham Forest. He'd starred and scored in their Littlewoods Cup Final win over Luton at Wembley that year and had established himself as playmaker in Bobby Robson's national side.

Delighted

Bryan Robson, Webb's team-mate in the England midfield, was certainly looking forward to renewing their partnership at club level.

"Neil balances a team. He can release players with a timely pass and has the vision to open up any opposition," said the United skipper.

"At Nottingham Forest he had a record of scoring a goal every three games and that's a superb performance for a midfielder.

"We have played together 18 times for England and I'm delighted that he has joined us."

Webb's arrival at United for £1.5 million was deemed a bargain and that feeling was enhanced by his debut at Old Trafford. He orchestrated their opening day crushing of reigning champions Arsenal, culminating in a brilliant volleyed goal in their 4-1 win.

But his rollercoaster ride was under way and trouble was just around the first bend. Four games in to the League season, Webb was on international duty in a crucial World Cup tie in Sweden. The ball broke loose outside the Swedish defence, he lined up a shot but ended up in a crumpled heap with nobody near him and his future in doubt.

A ruptured achilles tendon was to blame and it was six months before the former Reading and Portsmouth player saw first team action again.

But Robson believes the effect of the injury was more damaging than that.

"I could see when Neil fell with no one near him that it was a terrible injury," he says. "When a player is running along and goes down with such an anguished expression on his face then you know it's really serious.

Affected

"It was a real blow for Neil. He had started so well at the club and I think that injury affected him for two years. It limited his stretch and he's had to battle to get back his former mobility. It also damaged his confidence."

The pendulum of fate swung again in Webb's favour as his first season at Old Trafford ended in glory with his exquisite pass setting up full-back Lee Martin to score a golden winner in a spiteful FA Cup Final replay against Crystal Palace.

But his England career had taken a back seat. His injury in Sweden had allowed a certain Paul Gascoigne to stake his international claim and Webb remained a frustrated spectator as Bobby Robson's men forced their way through to the semi-finals at Italia '90.

United and Webb were back at Wembley again the following season — this time in the Rumbelows Cup — but his poor display in the 1-0 defeat by underdogs Sheffield Wednesday cost him his place in the side.

That led to the biggest disappointment in his career, when he was left out of the team who beat Barcelona in the 1991 European Cup-winners' Cup Final on an emotional night in Rotterdam.

"Missing that game was the lowest point in my football life," he says. "Not being part of the side that beat Barcelona was soul destroying. It didn't act as a gee up. I was depressed and that terrible depression lasted quite a few months.

"I was so gutted that I thought my career at Old Trafford was over."

It certainly looked that way at the start of last season with Webb stuck on the bench and his former manager Brian Clough showing an interest in taking him back to Forest.

But when his first-team chance came he grabbed it, much to the delight of his manager as well as himself.

"We've got a very strong squad here and players will have to fight for their places. Neil has done that and is playing as well now as I've ever seen him, " said Ferguson. "He has shown that he wasn't prepared to just accept being left out of the side."

Knocked

Webb enjoyed the best spell of his stay at Old Trafford last term. United were buzzing, he was drawing rave reviews for his midfield performances and England knocked on his door again after a two-year absence.

But it all came to a crashing halt when he was again left out of a Cup Final side — this time the one who beat his old club Forest in the Rumbelows Cup, United's third Wembley Final in three years. Yet there was worse to come. Forest gained revenge for that defeat by inflicting a crushing blow on United's faltering title hopes with a 2-1 win at Old Trafford in the closing weeks of the season.

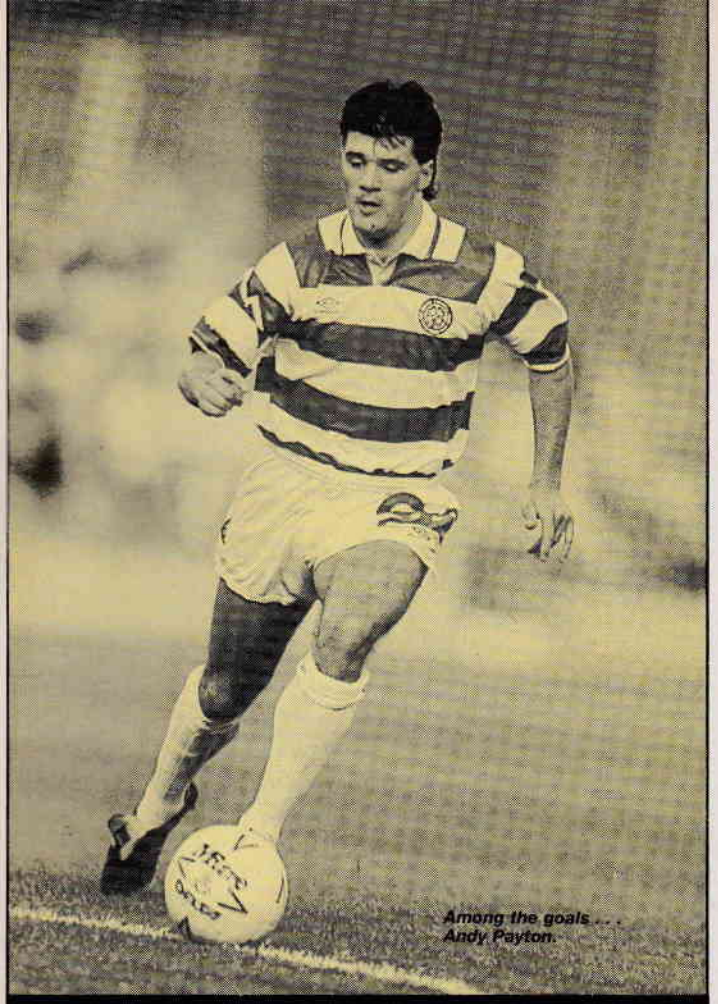
Webb was made to take the blame for that defeat and did not appear in the last three games of the season.

And just when things couldn't get much worse — they did. Webb was surprisingly left out of the opening two matches in the European Championship finals after peforming reasonably well on his return to the international scene, scoring the winner in England's 1-0 victory in Hungary in May.

And when he did play — in the 2-1 defeat by Sweden — he was accused of being too slow and too fat. He is now out of the United side, out of the England picture and out of the public eye.

The only Webb in the news at the moment is his wife, Shelley, who is presenting a BBC TV sports programme, Standing Room Only.

Has the rollercoaster finally gone off the rails?



Among the goals . . . Andy Payton.

Payton's a quick learner

CELTIC striker Andy Payton says: "I've learnt more about football in one week here than I did in six years with Hull and Middlesbrough."

That sweeping remark provided an indication of the level of respect in which the Scottish game is now held by the growing army of imported players from England and abroad.

Payton, a prolific scorer in his younger days with Hull, never quite realised his full potential at Middlesbrough and was lured to Parkhead, at the second attempt, by Celtic boss Liam Brady, an admirer for some time.

Barnsley-born Payton clearly relished the new challenge, scoring three times in his first six competitive games for Celtic and forming an exhilarating partnership with Gerry Creaney, a Scotland Under-21 international.

Brady also bought Stuart Slater for £1.7m from West Ham, where the pair had played together a few seasons ago.

The double signing has given the Parkhead fans renewed cause for optimism about their team's efforts to close the gap on Rangers.

Rangers, through to the Skol Cup final for the sixth time in seven seasons after their semi-final victory over St Johnstone, may have to suffer the loss of assistant manager Archie Knox from the touchline.

Former Old Trafford No.2 Knox was sent to the stand by referee Brian McGinlay during an explosive Ibrox encounter with Aberdeen and a ban is likely to follow.

Knox's vocal encouragement from the dug-out will be severely missed, not least by the less vociferous manager, Walter Smith.

He has been content to utilise his assistant in a highly effective "mouthpiece" capacity while monitoring events from a more objective angle in the grandstand.

The proposed Scottish Super League (SSL) now looks more of a reality than ever with talks between the breakaway clubs and the governing bodies having been conducted in a positive manner, and with both sides stating their desire for an amicable solution.

The new league is scheduled to start in 1994 with the ten "elite" clubs — Rangers, Celtic, Hearts, Hibernian, Aberdeen, Dundee United, Partick Thistle, St Johnstone, Motherwell and Dunfermline.

ALAN FAIRLEY

O'Neill finds some recruits

COLERAINE look to be on the up after several depressing seasons in the lower reaches of the Irish League.

A new board of directors appointed 29-year-old former Motherwell player Colin O'Neill as manager when he was forced to give up playing last season due to injury, and he spent a fruitful summer using his Scottish connections to give the club an injection of new blood.

Five players now cross the Irish Sea each week. One, 35-year-old former Rangers and Motherwell forward Bobby Russell, has signed for the rest of the season, and the others are on loan: striker Derek Cook (24) and winger Alan Ewing (23) from Stranraer, Partick Thistle midfielder Scott Harvie (23) and 19-year-old centre-half Stuart McLeon (Hamilton).

These players, looking to gain experience in the Irish League have helped Coleraine to their best start for years, although Ewing was sent off in a Gold Cup match with Linfield.

Supporters are optimistic that the club can eventually regain their former role as the leading club outside Belfast.

Ambitious O'Neill also signed former international midfielder David "Dee" McCreery, capped 67 times between 1976 and 1990. McCreery, should add experience and spirit to the squad.

At the other end of the age scale, Coleraine look to have unearthed a promising goalkeeper in 19-year-old Davie O'Hare, a student at the nearby university.

After the preliminary Ulster and Gold Cup competitions, the League got under way on September 26. Title-holders Glentoran and mid-Ulster pair Portadown and Glenavon are favourites. Glentoran have signed forward Eamon Kavanagh from Omagh and midfielder Sammy Troughton, back home after a spell in South Africa.

Portadown, like Coleraine, have a large contingent of Scots. Glenavon, under manager Alan Fraser, have a talented and well-disciplined squad.

Ards have invested heavily in new players in the close season, and "sleeping giants" Linfield can never be ruled out.

A somewhat flattering 3-0 margin gave Northern Ireland two points agianst Albania in a World Cup qualifier at Windsor Park.

Portsmouth's Colin Clarke scored his 13th international goal, breaking the record shared by Billy Gillespie, Joe Bambrick and Gerry Armstrong.

ROY **KITSON**

Rush shares Welsh record

A 6-0 WIN over the Faroe Islands put the Welsh World Cup campaign firmly back on course.

An excellent performance in front of 7,000 at the National Stadium was welcome after the poor displays at the end of last season.

Manager Terry Yorath had to undergo the usual tense wait over the previous weekend, to see if his squad came through the English programme unscathed.

His concern at Wales's relationship with English clubs has led him to consider pushing for future games to be on a Saturday rather than midweek, forcing the release of players on that weekend but not, alas, overcoming the problem of the previous midweek matches inevitable in the overcrowded English club season.

Disproved

Yorath was very pleased with the side's performance, in which Ian Rush's hat-trick put him level with Trevor Ford and Ivor Allchurch as top scorers for the national side on 23. A missed penalty cost Rush the record outright.

The performance of Rush and Saunders together disproved the myth that they could not play together — one of the reasons, apparently, for the latter's transfer to Aston Villa after only a year at Liverpool.

The professional clubs have had mixed fortunes in their start to the restructured Barclays League.

Swansea City, now in Division Two, are in mid-table, but Cardiff City, in the Third, lie third. Good league form set them up for their Cup-winners' Cup tie with Admira Wacker, but they were disappointingly held to a 0-0 home draw.

Wrexham are struggling in the bottom places, and look to be facing a long, hard season.

In the League of Wales, Cwymbran Town led with four wins out of five, ahead of Llanelli on goal difference.

A very healthy average of 3.78 goals per game so far indicates a very successful first season as far as entertainment is concerned.

Mold Alexandra have been suspended subject to a League extraordinary meeting. The Alyn Park ground has not met the deadline for improvements required under the strict ground criteria. The club have taken legal advice and hope for a satisfactory vote at the meeting, especially as work is continuing to upgrade standards.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cwmbran T	5	4	0	1	11	3	12
Llanelli	4	4	0	0	10	3	12
Conwy Utd	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Aberystwyth T	4	3	0	1	13	7	9
Haverfordwest Co	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
Bangor City	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Ebbw Vale	5	3	0	2	7	8	9
Caersws	5	2	1	2	11	7	7
Briton Ferry Ath	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Maesteg Park	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
Inter Cardiff	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Connah's Quay N	5	2	0	3	10	12	6
Holywell T	5	2	0	3	8	10	6
Porthmadog	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Newtown	5	1	1	3	7	18	4
Afan Lido	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Abergavenny Thurs	4	0	1	3	1	4	1
Flint Town Utd	5	0	1	4	4	11	1
Llanidloes T	5	0	1	4	5	13	1
Mold Alexandra*	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

* Club suspended

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